



**Phil Ochs**

## **FRIENDS PERFORM IN OCHS CONCERT**

**Late Singer of '60's Honored  
at Felt Forum Tribute**

The concert tribute to the late Phil Ochs that was held in the Felt Forum on Friday offered few surprises, except for the number of absentees. Of the star performers rumored to be considering appearances — Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Joan Baez had been mentioned, though not by the concert's organizers—none showed up.

But there were plenty of performers and speakers, enough to provide a fast-moving 5½ hours. Most of them had been associated with the peace and civil rights movements of the 1960's at one time or another, most sang topical songs and most had been close to Mr. Ochs, who died last April 19 and was a tireless organizer as well as a gifted songwriter.

It was interesting to see the diverse ways in which these children of the 1960's had adapted to the present decade. David Blue sang in a suit and tie and boosted California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s Presidential candidacy. Pat Sky disdained traditional folk singing and offered instead a bagpipe solo. Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Len Chandler and Peter Yarrow might as well have been performing for a 1960's audience, and Pete Seeger offered a brief sampling of his timeless banjo-picking.

If the folk singers had anything in common, it was their general lack of musical sophistication. Too often, voices were flat or sharp, melodies and chords skeletal. The concert's musical highlights were a heartfelt rendition of Mr. Ochs's "Pleasures of the Harbor" by Tim Hardin and Rob Stoner's energetic Elvis Presley imitation of "Heartbreak Hotel," with Allen Ginsberg, the poet, on finger cymbals.

• ROBERT PALMER

**The New York Times**

Published: May 30, 1976

Copyright © The New York Times