

## Sinatra 'Chairman' All The Way in U.K. Concert

LONDON — From the moment he stepped on stage at the Royal Festival Hall in the first of his two, long awaited and much heralded London charity concerts, Frank Sinatra had complete control of the situation.

The Festival Hall, packed to capacity with an estimated audience of 2,500, swung to the Count Basie orchestra in the first half which set the pace for things to come. The combination of Basie and Sinatra is dynamic and with the added backing of the selection of hand-picked musicians conducted by Bill Miller, nothing could go wrong.

Princess Margaret accompanied by Lord Snowdon, Johnny Dankworth and Cleo Laine, seemed to lead the applause throughout.

Any suspicions the audience may have had that the accumulated years might be diminishing Sinatra's magic, were soon dispelled in the first few bars of his opening song. Sinatra proved that his phrasing and breath control are still second to none, whether he is singing a ballad or an uptempo swinger.

In fact, throughout there was little doubt that this was Sinatra at his very best. Introductions and asides were kept to a minimum and during his one-hour performance he revealed all the many facets of his talent.

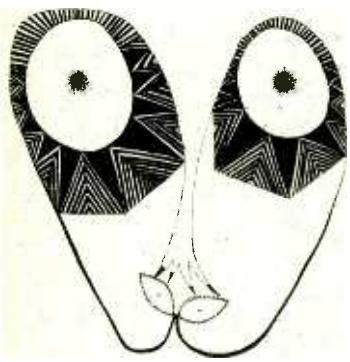
Popular opinion at the concert was that the half hour allotted to the Count Basie orchestra was far too short. However the band played well and there were five solos from Eddie (Lockjaw) Davis on tenor, Bobby Plater on alto and Harry (Sweets) Edison on trumpet.

By the second half tension and excitement were at a peak. And without any introduction on walked Sinatra with a solitary spotlight and what must have been one of the biggest ovations ever received by an artist in Britain.

Sinatra picked the very best material from his repertoire to delight his audience; each opening phrase was immediately recognized and each number drew rapturous applause. Sinatra swung through "Come Fly With Me," "Chicago," "The Lady Is a Tramp," in characteristic style.

Sinatra sings with tremendous feeling and with songs like "I've Got You Under My Skin" and "You Make Me Feel So Young," he simply could do no wrong. But it was perhaps with his sensitive interpretations of "Old Man River" and "Yesterday" that Sinatra, with his superb song craft, proved that he is an incomparable stylist.

This was a night to remember and one which must rank as the show business night of the year. **PHILIP PALMER**



## Miles Davis Getting Huge Sales Mileage

NEW YORK—With appearances at the Fillmore East (New York) and Fillmore West (San Francisco) under his belt, jazz artist Miles Davis is beginning to reach contemporary audiences. Columbia Records reports that his newest album, the two-record set, "Bitches Brew," is the fastest selling album he's ever released and has already achieved sales in excess of 70,000 copies.

Columbia also reports that the

Davis package is getting top airplay in key cities like New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and Chicago, among others.

The album, which was produced by Teo Macero, is beginning to show up on the national best selling pop album charts as well as hold a key position on the national jazz charts as well which attests to Davis' spread into the contemporary market.

## Talent In Action

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pop sophistication of the '60's. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons took the Carnegie stage May 10 with confident urbanity and polished musicianship. There's a constant osmosis of interpretative feeling linking Bob Gaudio on electric organ, Joey Long on bass guitar, and Tommy De Vito on lead guitar with Valli's extraordinary vocals, and this was intensified by an outstanding five-man support on guitar, drums, horn, and saxes doubling on chimes.

Their unique alchemy of stylistic traits ranged from a barrage of past hits to their new material on Philips; from their current album, "Half and Half," the group's medley of "Any Day Now/Oh Happy Day" unfolded in arresting variations of tone, and their new single, "Patch of Blue," was rhythmically effective.

But Frankie Valli has to be heard in person to be believed. His ability to render the high-pitched syncopated anguish of "Don't Think Twice" and then glissando into "Circles in the Sand," due for imminent release, and more especially Gaudio's "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine," with a rich, un-

restrained power, evokes both hilarity and awe from the listener. So much so, that the near-capacity audience swarmed to the edge of the stage and persuaded four encores, which still failed to satiate their enthusiasm.

**ROBIN LOGGIE**

### RAY DRUSHAY

*Dangerfield's, New York*

Ray Drushay, an engaging young vocalist, had a promising New York debut at Dangerfield's, May 11. Drushay was at his best in country-style material, including "Santa Anna Winds," his latest Dot Records single.

A country medley ("Make the World Go Away," "I Can't Stop Loving You," "I Can't Help It If I'm Still in Love With You," "Born to Lose," and "Your Cheatin' Heart") was another big one. His impressions of Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley also were winners. Drushay showed himself to be a bright young talent in a country-pop vein. The evening also marked the return to the club of Rodney Dangerfield after a short absence and the Bell Records comedian was in top form.

**FRED KIRBY**

## From The Music Capitals of the World

DOMESTIC

### NEW YORK

Colossus' **Shocking Blue** and **Tee Set** give a Carnegie Hall concert June 14. . . . Columbia's **Al Kooper** and his "Easy Does It Band" appear at the Bitter End through Monday (18). . . . **Joanne Sharell**, wife of **Jerry Sharell**, national promotion director for Buddah/Kama Sutra, and her husband became the parents of a son, **Jerome Sharell**, April 27 at the Sharon (Pa.) General Hospital. . . . Solid State's **Chico Hamilton** appears at Lenny's on the Turnpike, Boston, Friday (22) for the Gretsch Workshop. . . . Jubilee's **Donna Theodore** opens a two-week engagement at Oklahoma City's Cabana Hilton, Aug. 3.

Elektra's **Tom Paxton** and A&M's **Brewer & Shipley** play the Bitter End, June 10-15. . . . Columbia's **Johnny Mathis** opens a one-week stint at the Sahara Tahoe, June 1. . . . **Exchange**, a new Atlantic group formerly Tampalpais Exchange, an off-Broadway show earlier this season, will release the score for the show as their first album produced by **Adrian Barber's** Starship Productions. . . . Jazzman **Charles Lloyd** has completed production of an album of new music with label up for grabs. His new six-man electric group has a West Coast tour coming up. . . . **Frankie Ray**, guitarist-singer at the Spindletop Restaurant, has a new single on the Wizdom label, "Liza Love Me Now" and "Bye Bye Baby" produced by Jimmy Wisner.

Cotillion's **Sweet Stavin Chain**, plays Ungano's, Tuesday (19) and Wednesday (20). . . . Columbia's **Raven** begins a three-week European tour, June 3. When they return to the U.S., they play Los Angeles' **Whiskey Au-Go-Go**, July 8-12, and San Francisco's **Fillmore West**, July 16-18. . . . **Charles Strouse**, composer of Broadway's "Applause," has left for Hollywood to do the score of the Warner Bros. film, "There Was a Crooked Man." . . . Ford's **Dick Roman** has had a second four-week option picked up on his current engagement at Las Vegas' **Desert Inn**.

Warner Bros. **Van Morrison** appears at 8 and 11 p.m. shows at Howard Stein's Capitol Theater, Port Chester, N.Y., Friday (22) and Saturday (23). . . . Reprise's **Sammy Davis** will appear at the King's Inn in the Bahamas and the Deauville, Miami Beach, this summer. Motown's **Supremes** also will be appearing during the Deauville's summer season. Miami's **Eden Roc**, also owned by **Morris Lansburgh**, will have **Don Rickles**, **Diana Ross** and **Sheckey Greene** among its summer headliners.

Elektra Records has moved to 15 Columbus Circle. . . . **C.C. Courtney** and **Peter Link's** Big Sandy Productions will collaborate with Youth Marketing in editing the best of the mini-opera series for release as a deluxe record set. . . . **Jerry Ragavoy** is producing **Garnet Mimms** for MGM and **Lorraine Ellison** for Warner Bros. . . . **Orpheus** set for the Huntington House, L.I., Friday (22), Garden City, L.I., Saturday (30), the New Brunswick Inn, New Brunswick, N.J., June 5, and the Toms River H.S., Toms River, N.J., June 12. . . . **Sad Ending**, Scepter Records group, on a tour of campus one-nighters. . . . **Melanie**, Buddah artist, will give a solo concert at Carnegie Hall June 13. . . . **Ambergris**, Paramount Records group, at Los Angeles **Whisky Au GoGo** Thursday (21) to Sunday (24). . . . **Felicia Sanders**, director **Ellis Rahn** and composer **Sheldon Harnick** plan a Broadway musical, as yet untitled, based on the life of Edith Piaf. . . . **Larry Weiss** set to produce theme for Avco Embassy's "The People Next Door" with the **Bead Game**. . . . "Pufnstuf" soundtrack to be released on Capitol and not Kapp as previously announced. . . . **Dave Mullaney** com-

posed and scored the music for the **Charles Fifer** film "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory." . . . **Tony Lawrence** will produce a "Give-Peace-a-Chance Music Show" in the Damrosch Bandshell Lincoln Center on June 7. . . . Decca's **Karen Wyman** will make her nightclub debut at the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, on June 3. . . . **Stephen Buer** and **Menzel Borg** will conduct a series of chamber music concerts on Sunday afternoons at Cafe Figaro. . . . **Burt Bacharach** will appear in concert with the vocal group, **Carpenters**, and a full orchestra under his direction at the Westbury Music Fair, L.I., May 29-30. **FRED KIRBY**

### CINCINNATI

**Mae Boren Axton**, songwriter well known in both the country and pop fields, whose "Heartbreak Hotel" was one of the first big ones for **Elvis Presley**, is now located in Phoenix, Ariz., where she's working on public relations while continuing her writings. Her songwriter son **Hoyt** is still in Hollywood and takes to the road frequently for college concerts and club dates. Another son is a junior in law school in Oklahoma.

**Jack Wild**, of NBC-TV's "H. R. Pufnstuf," was in town last week to hustle his new Capitol Records single, "Some Beautiful," on **Bob Braun's** "50-50 Club" on WLW-TV and Avco's four-city TV net, and on **Larry Smith's** seg on WXIX, Channel 19. . . . **Scherri St. James & Company** wound up their stand at Harrah's, Reno, Nev., May 13 to show their wares at Harrah's, Lake Tahoe, for the May 14-20 period. They have already been engaged to return to Lake Tahoe for a fortnight's stay beginning Nov. 12.

**Mark Ramsey**, executive producer of WLW-TV's country show, "Midwestern Hayride," is the new director of Avco Broadcasting's "50-50 Club," featuring **Bob Braun**. He succeeds **J.K. Smith**. **Carol Farrell**, production assistant on "Hayride," is out on a leave of absence. . . . **Cathy Rainier** is the new promotion director at WXIX-TV here, succeeding **Dick Ridge**. . . . Moonlite Gardens of Coney Island here, long the haven for top recording names, is continuing with the same policy this season. Already set are **Kenny Rogers** and the **First Edition**, July 11; the **Gold Diggers**, Aug. 8, and "Hee Haw's" **Roy Clark**, Aug. 22. . . . Fraternity Record president **Harry Carlson** and wife **Louise** returned to their Sheraton Gibson Hotel headquarters Monday (18) after a week of sopping up the sunshine in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Dennis Wholey**, a resident of New-York since his syndicated talk show bearing his name was chucked by WKRC-TV five months ago, was a visitor here last week, accompanied by singer **Carolyn Blakey**, whom he has under contract. Miss Blakey cut a session at King Records here, with Wholey monitoring. Her initial release on the label some months ago was "Tomorrow's Child." Now working out of the William Morris office, Dennis is still mulling the idea of presenting **The Who** in concert here, with he as emcee.

**Richard King**, WLW Radio's top mickeman, departed the station May 1 at the expiration of his contract. King is reported to have demanded more moola, which wasn't forthcoming. Filling his former 3 to 7 slot is **Jim LaBarbara**. King had been at WLW since 1965. . . . Lauded by the local press for a solid performance, **The Mountain** (**Felix Papalardi**, bass, and **Leslie West**, guitar) drew a meager gathering of rock fans to Music Hall. The **Hampton Grease Band**, of Atlanta, handled the warm-up.

**A.S. Csaky**, motion picture tech-

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