

# Byrds - McGuinn, Hillman & Clark

As Alfred Hitchcock once phrased it, "The Byrds is coming" — well some of The Byrds anyway. Founding members, Roger McGuinn, Gene Clark and Chris Hillman tour here this month. The concert format will involve individual solo spots followed by a combined performance. Apparently they are touring without a drummer so whether this indicates a totally acoustic evening is anybody's guess.

Acoustic or electric, McGuinn is well prepared. He began his career as a folk guitarist (supporting the likes of Judy Collins) before going it alone on the cafe cir-

cuit. One night in '64, Clark and Dave Crosby approached him from the audience and so began the primal stage of one of the decade's greatest bands. In many ways McGuinn was the Byrds. The one constant factor in its 9 year history, he always directed flight, utilising the talents of a changing membership. As a guitarist, he contributed the famous electric 12-string sound, being the only original member proficient enough to play on their first record. As a writer, he co-authored "8 Miles High", "So You Want To Be A Rock and Roll Star" (with Hillman) and "Chestnut Mare". Since

the band's demise he has made 4 solo albums, the latest of which contains a song Dylan gave him after McGuinn toured with the Rolling Thunder Revenue.

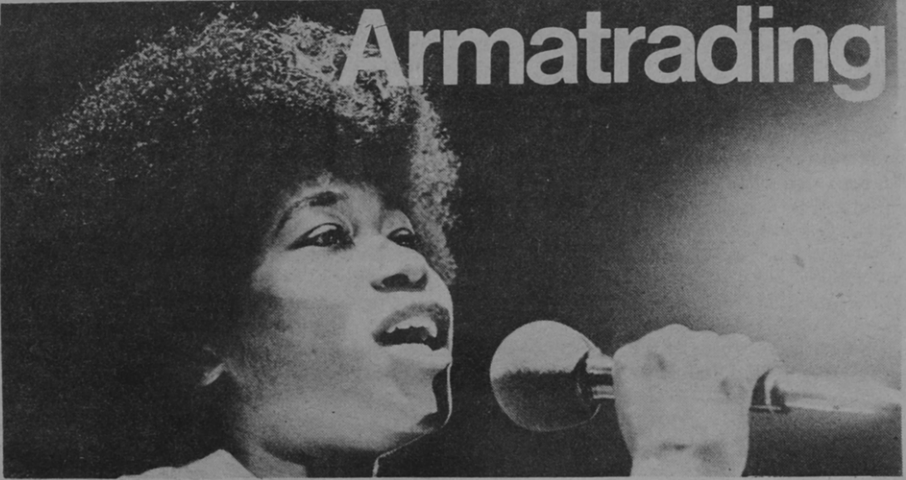
Missouri-born Gene Clark first travelled as a guitarist with the New Christy Minstrels but after a hit and two albums he quit to settle in L.A. The Byrds capitalised on his songwriting skill and when Clark eventually departed, (during the recording of the *Fifth Dimension* album in '66) it was, ironically, because of his fear of boarding planes. Subsequently he has made two solo albums and two with a group as co-leader. Clark's best post-Byrds work is probably his latest, the solo *White Light*.

Chris Hillman was a bluegrass mandolinist who switched to bass on joining The Byrds, and developed a great flair for

the instrument. He was a fine musician and songwriter and his departure in '68 marked the beginning of the demise of the group. Since then Hillman has worked with three other bands and made two solo albums, but the most satisfying remains his first with The Flying Burrito Brothers and the first with Manassas.

All three men are '60s survivors, ex-members of the group which introduced Dylan to the masses, created a new rock genre, put a passage from The Bible on the top of the charts, wrote the first 'duggie' hits, sparked the country-rock resurgence, helped the *Easy Rider* soundtrack, and generally gave us a great deal of wonderful music. If you've any sense of history you won't want to miss them.

Peter Thomson



By the time you read this, tickets for Joan Armatrading's shows around New Zealand should be nearly, if not totally, sold out. Which is as good proof as you'll ever need of the following Ms Armatrading has developed. After five years and four albums, Joan Armatrading is here to stay.

Unlike most artists, she admits to being a reluctant performer: "I just wanted to write, maybe join a band and play the guitar. But not be the front person." But circumstances forced her into the limelight. "People heard me singing and tended to go on about my voice... I fell in with that because I thought it was a good way to start and to get my songs heard."

But with her third album, *Joan Armatrading*, her status was confirmed. It gave Armatrading her first top 10 album in Britain

and was received with much critical hurrahing. It also marked her coming of age as both singer and live performer.

While the follow-up, *Show Some Emotion*, has failed to do quite as well, it has consolidated her popularity. The possibility of Joan Armatrading ever being, as she once hoped, "famous but faceless" now looks an ever more distant prospect.

## TOUR DATES

Joan Armatrading Christchurch June 9, Wellington June 11 and Auckland June 12.  
Roger McGuinn, Gene Clark & Chris Hillman (founding members of the Byrds) Dunedin June 10, Christchurch June 12, Wellington June 14, Palmerston North June 15, Napier June 16 and Auckland June 17.

# Marley Peace Concert

"Imagine Mr Callaghan and Mrs Thatcher emotionally shaking hands with each other and with Johnny Rotten on stage at a rock charity concert organised by the Kray brothers." That's the comparison one British newspaper made when describing Jamaica's One Love Peace Concert, when Bob Marley, at the climax of the nine hour show, brought on Jamaica's Prime Minister, Michael Manley, and opposition leader, Edward Seaga, and clasped their hands over his head. The two leaders then embraced Bucky Marshall and Claude Massop, the notorious top ghetto gunmen for the two political parties.

The concert had been organised by the Peace Movement to celebrate the ending of the politically motivated war which had waged for a number of years in Kingston's ghettos. The show also marked the 12th Anniversary of the visit of Haile Selassie to Jamaica.

The former gunmen organised the concert to raise money to improve ghetto conditions and 28,000 people paid to witness the event in which 18 top reggae acts appeared, including The Mighty Diamonds, Big Youth and Peter Tosh as well as Bob Marley and the Wailers.

It was Marley's first appearance in Jamaica since the attempt on his life in Kingston in December 1976 and a triumphant return it was. And although the show of onstage solidarity was undoubtedly more symbolic than real, it's still a tribute



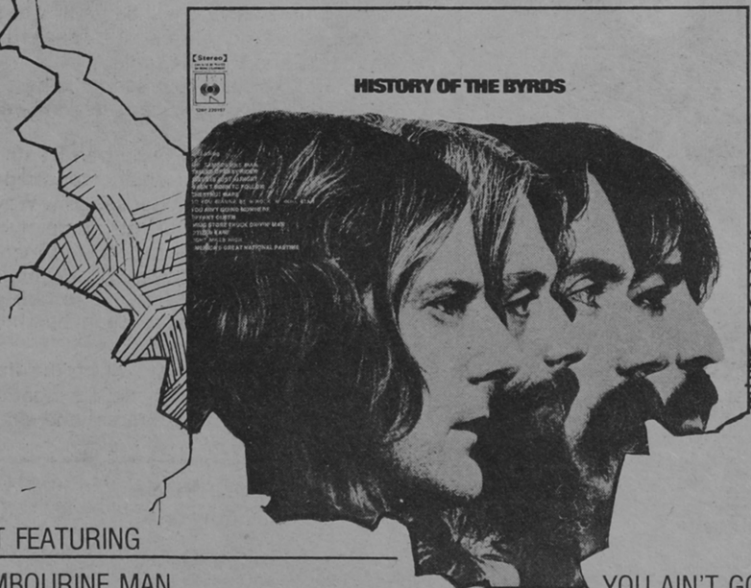
to the high regard in which Marley is held as spiritual leader and musician.

Trouble has, however, dogged Marley's prospective tours. His American tour was suspended indefinitely after Wailers' guitarist, Junior Marvin, was refused a visa because of a previous drug offence involving cocaine. However, the US Immigration Department relented and granted Marvin a visa and the concerts were swiftly rescheduled.

Similarly, Marley's tour of South East Asia, taking in Japan, Australia and New Zealand, was postponed when Marley refused to play Japan as part of a personal protest against Japanese fishermen's netting of dolphins. Dates are now being renegotiated and an appearance by Marley in New Zealand later this year is still a possibility.

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CHESTNUT MARE  
SO YOU WANNA BE A ROCK 'N' ROLL STAR

YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERE  
TIFFANY QUEEN  
DRUG STORE TRUCK DRIVIN' MAN  
CITIZEN KANE  
EIGHT MILES HIGH  
AMERICA'S GREAT NATIONAL PASTIME

INSIDE: A  
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OF THE BYRDS FROM  
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