

Petty basks in the sunshine

Sample of new album promising

By **DAVE TIANEN**
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REVIEW

Several years ago, I ventured into a music store in search of a Roger McGuinn album. When teenage clerk No. 1 professed complete mystification, teenage clerk No. 2 came to the rescue.

"You know," he said, "that guy who sounds like Tom Petty."

Tom Petty would certainly enjoy that story because Roger McGuinn was a major influence of his, and when Petty reached back into the mist Sunday night at Summerfest for an oldie like "Here Comes My Girl," you're reminded of how much jangly impact the Byrds had on Petty.

But they are certainly not the sum of his art because like all the best rockers, he has taken his influences and made them his own.

There's a new Petty and the Heartbreakers album due out this fall, and Petty shared a sampling with the Summerfest crowd. It seems like a promising project.

"Lost Children" has the feel of a musical prayer that blends snatches of wah-wah guitar with an almost hushed delivery. "Have Love Will Travel" smacks of the kind of plaintive country ballad that Levon Helm always prospered with.

Always a playful presence on stage, Petty seemed in exceptional spirits Sunday. Not even a cranky amplifier that held up the show for five minutes in the middle of his set could derail his good mood. When they finally got things back into working order, Petty burst into an impromptu rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" that had the crowd singing along. Later in the evening, "Learning to Fly" actually closed with a birdcall.

Although he came out rocking hard, I thought the evening's best stretch came in the middle. The almost pensive "It's Good To Be King" got a surprisingly extensive treatment with both Mike Campbell and Petty stretching out on guitar but without the kind of showy dynamics that usually implies in a rock concert. When Petty leans back on his southern roots, he often evokes the rough-hewn beauty of Dylan's gunfighter sagas or acoustic Neil Young.

One minor quibble. For some reason, they dispensed with the projection screens Sunday. In a house the size of the Marcus, the screens should be semi-mandatory.

Opening for Petty was Brian Setzer. The swing fad has swung out the door, and so Setzer has returned to his hepcat ways with a rockabilly trio. Setzer may want you to believe he's just an old alley cat, but there's always been a restless musical intelligence lurking beneath that towering blond pompadour. There was plenty of fast and hard rockabilly Sunday. "Rock This Town" and Eddie Cochran's "Twenty Flight Rock" were highlights, but Setzer also picked up a banjo for a straight-up run at John Hartford's "Gentle on My Mind."

To prove he's also a Nashville cat, he later had a go at Chet Atkins' "Guitar Rag." Of course, being Setzer, he sounded like Atkins after four or five cans of Jolt.

There's also more than a bit of jazz to Setzer. His radical reinvention of Santo & Johnny's "Sleepwalk" was the kind of trip you can make only if you can improvise in your sleep.



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers play to a sold-out Summerfest crowd Sunday at the Marcus Amphitheater.

SUMMERFEST DAILY SCHEDULE

TODAY

Admission: \$11 adults, \$1 seniors 60 and older and children 12 and younger.

DISCOUNTS

All admitted free at all gates between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. for Children's Fest Day.

Show a receipt for two jars of Milwaukee's Pickles at the Mid-Gate promotions tent between 3 and 6 p.m. for a free admission coupon (first 2,000 people).

Show an advance sale ticket or previously used ticket stub for the John Hancock All-Star FanFest at Mid-Gate between 5 and 10 p.m. for a free admission coupon.

Donate a band instrument at the South Gate between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for four free admission tickets good any time or day.

MARCUS AMPHITHEATER

7:30 p.m. BoDeans and Train

99 WMYX COMEDY PAVILION

11:30 a.m. Adopt a Musician

3 p.m. Stand-up comedy

5 and 7:30 p.m. ComedySportz

6:15 and 9 p.m. Lewis Black

10:15 p.m. Pat McCurdy

BRIGGS & STRATTON BIG BACKYARD

Noon The Britins

2:30 p.m. Exhibit A

5 p.m. The Orphans

7:30 p.m. Front Page News

10 p.m. INXS

CHILDREN'S THEATER & PLAYZONE

Noon Truly Remarkable Loon

1 p.m. Dental Health

2 p.m. Movin' to the Music

2:45 p.m. Andre the Science-Whey

3:30 p.m. Hoppin' in the World Safely

4:30 p.m. The Fabulous Feno

5:30 p.m. Ron Fable

6 p.m. Mark Hayward

7:30 and 9 p.m. David Seebach's Wonders of Magic

DISKOTECH PRESENTED BY SNAPPLE

5 p.m. Faraz Farzam

6 p.m. David Dominguez

7 p.m. Del G Audio

8 p.m. Michael John

9 p.m. James Amato

9:35 p.m. Mark Almaria

10:35 p.m. Dan EFEX

HARLEY-DAVIDSON ROADHOUSE

11:30 a.m. Children's Fest Day: Trout Fishing in America/Milwaukee Public Theater

3 p.m. Reverend Raven & The Chain Smoking Altar Boys

JILL RICHARDS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER