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P. J. AND AMY JOHNSON
Sang their way to Expo '67

P.J. and Amy
Folksinging Duo Like Minstrels

By ALYCE GUYNN
Staff Writer

Folksingers, as far back as the wandering minstrels of medieval time, have been known for their love of traveling along singing their songs.

So it was a very natural thing when P.J. and Amy Johnson, husband and wife folk duo currently playing at the 11th Door, decided to sing their way to Expo '67 in Montreal.

Starting out in their Volkswagen bus after a Houston concert, the couple drove to California where they played in several folk houses and clubs — such as the famous Coffee and Confusion in San Francisco — to get enough funds for the trip to Canada.

Using the bus as their home, as well as their transportation, they camped out and did their own cooking for the entire trip.

Not all places P.J. and Amy played were folk oriented. One spot where they stopped to perform was a "strip club" there they took in about $30. At most of the places they played, they got permission from the owner or manager to perform, then "passed the hat" afterward. Other times the couple auditioned and was hired for more than one night.

Amy said, besides getting to see so much country, the best part of the journey was the attitude of the people with whom they came in contact. She said when people learned what they were trying to do, they did everything possible to help.

In Vancouver, Canada, P.J. and Amy played in such well-known folk spots as the Bistro and the Bunkhouse Coffee House, where they were held over for a second week. Amy said their music was well-received there even though it was different from Canadian folksinging. One of the tunes in P.J. and Amy's act is "Song for Canada" by Ian Tyson (of Ian and Sylvia). It was not a familiar song to the Canadians, and one performer at the Bunkhouse was so touched after hearing the song that tells of the gap of the English and French speaking peoples that she announced — in tears — that she could not go on. "That's my country you're singing about," she said.

From Vancouver the Johnsons headed across Canada for Montreal and the World's Fair. They spent five days there, camping in the city park.

Then they were Austin bound. On the trip home they stopped in Boston, New Haven and Washington, visiting museums and looking for antique stringed instruments. (P.J. has a collection of the old instruments which he refinishes.)

After three months of singing for their supper, riding, sleeping and eating in their little bus, the Johnsons made it back to Austin and stepped out of the role of wandering minstrels.

Amy is a senior zoology student here at the University of Texas. P. J. is a high school history teacher.

They met in Houston and were singing partners before they married, nearly two years ago. Amy is the former Amy Goodenough who sang at the Id Coffee House in its early days here in 1963. Her father, Forrest Goodenough, is a composer-pianist who teaches at the Texas School for the Blind here.

Amy's first interest in folk music came when she was studing English ballads in a high school literature course. She learned to play the guitar and banjo and began singing professionally when she was 15 years old. Amy started with pure folk ballads and songs from the Appalachian Mountains.

P. J.'s first interest in music was jazz. He has had no formal musical training and does not read music. He earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University with a major in history. Appearing professionally for the first time in California, P. J. then played bass violin in a jazz club called "My Old Kentucky Home." The Denver-born musician stopped in Houston on his way to New Orleans, and it was there at the San Mounton club he began singing folk music with Amy.

With Amy's background in the purist vein of folk music and P. J.'s flair for jazz, the duo has come up with some very diverse entertainment. Besides the traditional folk music, they have worked such numbers as "The Girl From Ipanima" and "Desafinado" into their set and do a particularly pleasing arrangement of Steve Allen's "Gravy Waltz."

For P. J. and Amy, singing is fun. "We'll keep on singing as long as we enjoy it," Amy says. But it is more of an avocation than a vocation for them. Amy is primarily interested in zoology and takes few breaks from her books.

P.J.'s hobby of refinishing antique instruments will likely turn out to be more than a hobby. While he was in Vancouver he was offered an apprenticeship to a violin maker there. He is now refinishing a mando-bass he picked up in Winnipeg. One unique instrument in P.J.'s collection is a tiny banjo (about six inches in diameter) that was built in 1891. He has almost completely remade it, and they use it sometimes when performing.

Although he is not teaching this semester, P.J. considers teaching his real career. But for those who catch P.J. and Amy at this rare local appearance at the 11th Door, it will probably be hard to imagine them as anything but performers.

Kimberley, South Africa, is one of the world's most important diamond centers.

Ciardi To Speak Tonight

John Ciardi, only lecturer on the University of Texas Cultural Entertainment Committee Series, insists that he does not lecture but rather "talks to the eyes he sees."

The distinguished American poet and current poetry editor of Saturday Review will speak at Municipal Auditorium 8 p.m. Wednesday. The event is free to UT blanket tax holders and CEC season ticket holders.

"I don't give speeches," Ciardi says. "All my life has been a preparation." Accordingly, he names no specific topic in advance for his speaking appearances.

In addition to poet and editor, Ciardi is also a translator, educator, and former television host. His numerous roles have given him a rare working knowledge of poetry.

A native of Boston, Ciardi taught English at Harvard from post-World War II days until 1953 when he became Professor of English at Rutgers. He resigned the latter position in 1961 to make speaking tours and do free-lance writing, because "I was beginning to feel too safe — and too repetitious."

His first free-lance effort was serving as host of CBS-TV's weekly discussion program, "Accent," from 1961 to 1962. The show was taken off the air and replaced by 'Mr. Ed, the Talking Horse,'" Ciardi says, adding, "—an embarrassing kind of technological unemployment."

Although Ciardi has left regular college teaching, his books have not. "How Does a Poem Mean?" — an introduction to poetry — is used in more than 200 colleges and universities. In addition, his translation of the "Inferno" — by the great 13th Century Italian poet Dante — has sold more than one million copies in paperback and continues in use as the most popular teaching text in America. His "Purgatorio" was published in 1966 and he is now working on "Divine Comedy."

The author of several volumes of poetry, including books of poems for children, Ciardi has contributed poems and articles to "Atlantic Monthly," "New Yorker" and other leading magazines and literary journals. "Dialogue With an Audience" is a collection of articles either loathed or emphatically appreciated by Saturday Review readers.

In his 11th year as Saturday Review's poetry editor, Ciardi entertains a wide readership with both his critical articles and his column, "Manner of Speaking." He has become known as a man who speaks plain sense on the subject of poetry, freeing it from the fogs of misunderstanding which too often surround it.

Any single-admission tickets available will go on sale at the door one hour prior to the performance. The charge will be $2.50 for adults and $1 for children.

CELEBRANT—John Mills gets into the boisterous spirit of things at a wedding reception following his son's marriage in this scene from "The Family Way," a top-rated British comedy now going into its fourth week at the Texas. In the film, Mills plays the new father-in-law of his real-life daughter, Hayley. His performance here has already made him a strong contender for an Academy Award nomination.

Angelo College Shows 20 Artists' Paintings

An exhibit of 23 paintings by 20 University of Texas art students or recent graduates is currently being shown at Angelo State College in San Angelo.

The traveling exhibit, sponsored by the UT art department and Art Museum, will remain on view through October at the college's student union.

Prof. William Lester of the UT art department, chairman of the Student Exhibition Committee, selected the works. The exhibit is one of several which will be made available to other colleges and universities throughout the state upon request.

Austin students or recent graduates whose works are included in the show are: Robert A. Fainter, 2903 Bonnie Road; Mary Eden Ritter, 4203 Edgemont Drive; Mrs. Diane Labowitz Rutt, 3415 Cascadera; Barbara Theroit, 4001 Idlewild; and Mrs. Barbara Mathews Whitehead, 2513 Janice Drive.

Others exhibiting include Carol Lee Gillespie, Don L. Herron, Sandra Gail Heiser, Robert B. Fitts, Susan Ross Weber, R. Neal Wilson, Richard Clarence, Philip L. Renteria, Phillip Trussell, William Bayford Lyne, Billiemae Gray, Clifford Darsey Hodges, Ray E. Cox, Arnold Favela and Henry Tuck Laurens.

Serious crime in the United States jumped 20 per cent in the first three months of 1967, according to an FBI report.

Renowned Flutist To Hold UT Class

One of the world's leading flutists, Jean-Pierre Rampal of France, will conduct a master class at the University of Texas Oct. 19.

The class, which is expected to attract teachers, students and professional flutists from throughout the state, will be offered without charge from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Music Building Recital Hall.

The UT music department is sponsor.

In addition to the master class, Rampal will appear that evening with harpsichordist Robert Veyron-Lacroix in a concert set for 8:15 p.m. in the Recital Hall. The concert is part of the Music Department's Guest Artist Series.

Tickets for the evening performance are $1.50 for adults and $1 for students and may be purchased now by mail or one week in advance of the concert at the Fine Arts Boxoffice in Hogg Auditorium.

Rampal, a native of Marseilles, has been awarded six Grands Prix de Disque and has been named by France as premier "virtuoso." A former student at the Paris Conservatory, he has concertized widely in Europe and North America for the past 20 years, both as a soloist and chamber musician and with Veyron-Lacroix. The Rampal-Vayron-Lacroix duo has achieved an international reputation through performances in concerts and on records.

Tickets for the evening performance may be ordered from the Fine Arts Boxoffice, Box 7547, the University of Texas, Austin, 78712.

WEDNESDAY TV

Morning

Editor's Note: ELBN (Channel 9) has a varied schedule of educational programs each weekday morning beginning at 9 a.m.

6:30 (12) Beaver/Market Report
6:40 (5) Farm Report
(6) Farm Report—Clark Bolt
6:55 (4) News—C
7:00 (2)(4)(6) Today—C
(12) Farm & Ranch News—Jack Doby (Monday only)
(5) Little Rascals
(12) News
7:30 (12) Texas Outdoors, Russell Tinsley (Fridays only)
7:25 (2) (5) News
7:30 (2) Cartoon Capers
(5) News
7:55 (5) News
8:00 (2) (5) Captain Kangaroo—C
(12) Miss Douglas—C
(4)(6) Snap Judgment—C
9:00 (2) Candid Camera
(12) Romper Room—C
(4) Snap Judgment
(6) Snap Judgment
(5) Password—C
9:15 (4)(6) News—C
9:25 (2) (5) Beverly Hillbillies—C
(12)(4)(6) Concentration—C
(12) Girl Talk
10:00 (2) (5) Lady of Mayberry
(4) (12) TBA
(4)(6) Personality—C
10:30 (2) (5) Rick Van Dyke
(4)(6) Hollywood Squares—C
(12) Family Game—C
11:00 (2) (5) Love of Life—C
(12)(4)(6) Jeopardy—C
(12) Everybody's Talking
11:25 (2) (5) CBS News—C

RADIO

11:30 (2)(5) Search for Tomorrow—C
(4)(6) Eye Guess—C
(4) News—C
(12) Donna Reed
11:45 (2)(5) Golding Light—C
11:55 (2)(5)(6) NBC News—C

AFTERNOON

12:00 (2) (5) News—C
(4) Eye Guess — C
(6) News
(12) The Fugitive
12:05 (2) Farm and Weather — C
12:10 (2) Woman's World — C
12:15 (5) Our Town — C
(6) Cathy's Corner
12:25 (2) NBC News — C
12:30 (2) (5) As the World Turns—C
(4) (6) Let's Make A Deal — C
12:55 (4) News — C
1:00 (2) (5) Love Is A Many Splendored Thing—C
(12) (4) (6) Days of Our Lives—C
(12) Newlywed Game — C
1:25 (2) Sketches and Skits
1:30 (2) (5) House Party — C
(4) (6) Doctors — C
(12) Dream Girl — C
1:45 (2) Art and Music
1:55 (12) News — C
2:00 (2) (5) To Tell The Truth — C
(12) (4) (6) Another World — C
(12) General Hospital
2:25 (2) (5) News — C
2:30 (2) (5) Edge of Night
(12) (4) (6) You Don't Say—C
(12) Dark Shadows — C
3:00 (2) (5) Secret Storm
(12) (4) (6) Match Game — C
(12) Dating Game — C
3:25 (4) (6) NBC News — C
(12) NBC Afternoon News — C
(2) News
3:30 (2) General Hospital
(5) Popeye—C
(6) Dennis the Menace
(12) Dating Game
(4) Movie: "China Caravan"
(12) Dateline Hollywood
(2) Bike Safety
4:00 (2) Smart Sewing
(5) Children's Doctor — C
4:00 (2) Spider Man—C
(12) Leave It To Beaver — C
(4) Sing Hi—Sing Lo
(6) Movie: "Drive A Crooked Road," Mickey Rooney
(12) Movie: "Illegal Entry"
4:15 (2) Friendly Giant
4:30 (2) Donna Reed
(2) Uncle Jay Show—C
(2) TV Kindergarten
(5) Flintstones - C
5:00 (2) Newlywed Game
(12) The Deputy
(5) (4) News — C
(6) Dennis Day
5:15 (5) News
5:30 (2) (4) (6) Huntley-Brinkley
(5) Walter Cronkite—C
(2) Who Knows the Answer?
(12) Peter Jennings — C

EVENING

6:00 (2) News
6:00 (4) (12) News — C
(2) The Flying Nun—C
(5) What's New
(6) Mollie's Navy
6:15 (2) News
6:30 (2) Cowboy in Africa—C
(12) Custer - C
(5) News
(4) (6) Virginian — C
(12) Lost in Space — C
(12) Custer—C
7:00 (2) Men & Ideas
7:30 (2) (5) Beverly Hillbillies — C
(12) (4) Second 100 Years — C
(2) French Chef

8:00 (2) Big Valley—C
(4) (6) Kraft Music Hall—C
(2) Anatomy of a Revolution
(5) Green Acres — C
(12) Movie: "Love With The Proper Stranger," Steve McQueen, Natalie Wood
8:30 (5) He and She—C
(2) A Time To Dance
9:00 (2) (4) Barbara Streisand Special—C
(2) Star Trek - C
(12) Star Trek—C
(2) International Magazine
(5) Dundee (4) Colbens—C
10:00 (2) (4) (5) (12) News — C
(6) News
(2) Turn of the Century
10:30 (2) (4) (6) Johnny Carson—C
11:00 (2) Film Feature
(2) Feminine Fitness
(5) (6) Joey Bishop — C
(12) Movie: "Colleen Confidential"
12:00 (2) News — C
(4) Midnight Theater

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