

the scene

By Chris Hamel

First order of business today is setting things straight about a major show Saturday.

There will be a rock bonanza at Paramount Theater in Springfield, starring Leon Russell, Edgar Winter, John Mayall's Bluesbreakers and regional faves Max Creek. But note that Russell and Winter will be working together in the same sextet.

We suspect that many fans were anticipating separate sets by the two heroes. But they will appear together for a lengthy — and probably sizzling — show, preceded by sets from Mayall and Max Creek.

We talked by phone last week with Winter, who was at home in New York. He said his shows with Russell have been lasting at least two hours and include about 40 songs, as well as a spotlight segment in which the stars perform as a duo.

"I've been with Leon almost a year now," Winter said. "We were playing with our respective bands and we did some shows together. We really felt like something happened on those shows. Leon approached me about working together. We didn't know each other before. But he knew of my work and I had always had a great deal of respect for him."

Winter, 40, said the shows include "basically everything" from his and Russell's repertoire. For instance, Winter reaches back to his days in White Trash for tunes, such as "Tobacco Road" and "Keep Playing That Rock 'n' Roll," and then rolls through later hits, including "Frankenstein" and "Free Ride."

* * *

A multi-talent originally from Beaumont, Texas, Winter followed his famous older brother Johnny Winter into the limelight. Many believe that despite Johnny's wizardry as a blues singer/guitarist, his baby bro is more talented and versatile.

Early on, the Winters worked

together in clubs. After Johnny crashed the national scene in the 1960s, he sent for Edgar, who rounded out a rambunctious quartet.

Edgar eventually moved to a solo career, grabbing attention for his talent in R&B, jazz and heavy-handed rock. In a sense, he has come full circle in joining Russell.

"Leon is very blues oriented," he said. "It reminds me of playing with Johnny. Both have that same sort of raw, primitive blues approach. My music tends to be more on the sophisticated side."

"I'd like to see what would happen with Johnny in our group. We haven't had the opportunity to play with him. But I've talked about it with Leon."

Johnny Winter, of late, has stayed close to root blues and worked not only as a performer, but also as a record producer.

"Johnny and I still play together now and then," Edgar said. "He lives about seven blocks away. We see each other a good deal. The last time we played together on stage was about a year ago, at one of his shows at the Beacon Theater here."

* * *

The 46-year-old Russell, a pianist, guitarist and singer also known for a wide range of style, first heard Edgar in Johnny's band.

"It was at the Hollywood Bowl," Edgar said. "I was with Johnny. Leon didn't know who I was. That must have been probably 1970. It was before my first album."

It is likely that Russell heard Edgar sing his version of "Tobacco Road" and it is almost certain the pair will perform it Saturday. The classic hit has become a staple for Edgar.

"That was a song that I had sung in clubs," Winter said. "I originally played organ and saxophone for Johnny. One night he asked me why didn't I sing. I tried to think of something I could sing



Edgar Winter is set to perform Saturday at the Paramount Theater.

and 'Tobacco Road' was the first song I thought of. We performed it for the first time in Chicago and I've been doing it ever since."

Though it is a signature song for him, Winter probably had the most commercial success with an instrumental single, "Frankenstein," which reached No. 1 in 1972.

"That song was originally called 'The Double Drum Song,'" he said. "I wrote that when I was with Johnny and it was written three years before it was recorded. It was called 'The Double Drum Song' because we had two sets of drums on stage in our shows. I played one and Johnny's drummer played the other. It was an instrumental and I wrote it to showcase myself and to do more than I was doing in the show up to that point."

"When I became interested in the synthesizer later on, I was looking for a heavy-rock, guitar-oriented riff that would feature the synthesizer. I used that song."

"When we first recorded it, it was about 15 minutes long. Then we cut it to seven or eight minutes. Then we cut it to about four minutes to use on the album ('They Only Come Out at Night') and we cut it more for a single. So it was in about 20 pieces on the floor of the recording studio. Somebody said, 'This is like trying to put together Frankenstein.' Rick (guitarist Rick Derringer) said that would be a good name for the song."

* * *

concert.

We hear that Near is stepping back from the political tone of past shows. She will present a more introspective and personalized concert, rooted no doubt in her latest album, "Don't Hold Back."

On Oct. 30, Bonnie Raitt will appear in John M. Greene Hall at Smith College. She will be accompanied for an "evening of semi-acoustic music" by guitarist Johnny Lee Schell.

Special guest will be Mitch Chakour in a solo set. Show time will be 8 p.m.

On Nov. 8, Cris Williamson, who is touring behind her latest album, "Wolf Moon," will be at Academy of Music. Make special note of the 2 p.m. start.

Tickets for the Near and Williamson dates are \$13.50 each. They are on sale at Iron Horse Coffeehouse in Northampton, For the Record in Amherst, World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and Good Goods in Pittsfield.

Proceeds from Raitt's show will benefit Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts. General admission tickets (\$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door) are on sale at the council's offices in Holyoke, Greenfield, Pittsfield, Northampton and Springfield.

The Northampton office also is selling \$25 patron tickets, which include reserved seats and a post-show reception with Raitt.

Other general admission ticket outlets include For the Record, World Eye Bookshop, Amherst College Campus Center, Everywoman's Center at University of Massachusetts, Broadside Bookshop in Northampton, Main Music in Springfield and Smith College Student Recreational Council.

On deck: In a space of 17 days, Northampton will see shows by three women of major musical magnitude. First, Holly Near and her band will be at Academy of Music on Oct. 23 for an 8 p.m.

nightclubs

soft rock/folk

- Chuck's Steak House** — tonight — Richard Starkey; Fri. — Don Ingraham; Sat. — Matt Bak; Sun. — Willis Clemmets, Southwick.
- Geraldine's** — tonight, Fri., Sat. — the Brothers; Sun. — Breezin', 5 p.m.; Time Machine, 10:30 p.m. West Springfield.
- Iron Horse Coffeehouse** — tonight — Lyle Lovett, Townes Van Zandt, 7 and 10 p.m.; Fri. — Chicago Bob Nelson Band, 8:30 p.m.; Sat. — Judy Polan, 8:30 p.m.; Sun. — Eric Andersen, 7 p.m. Northampton.
- The Keg** — tonight, Fri., Sat. — DJ with rock and oldies. Springfield.
- Knighly's Pub** — Fri. — Bob French; Sat. — Marty McDonough, Easthampton.
- Mory's Pub** — tonight, Fri., Sat. — Party Connection DJ. Springfield.
- Plumbly's** — Fri. — Larry Tomei, 7 p.m. Amherst.
- Pumpnickel Pub** — Fri. — Dave Abington; Sat. — DJ with rock. Enfield, Conn.
- Robinson's** — Fri., Sat. — Sam Bovino, guitarist/singer, Suffield, Conn.
- Shaker Mill Tavern** — Fri. — dance night with DJ, 10:30 p.m.; Sun. — Mike Schiffer, pianist, West Stockbridge.
- Simon's** — tonight — Willis Clemmets; Fri., Sat. — Fat Tuesday, Westfield.
- Stained Glass Coffeehouse at Federated Church Hall** — Sat. — Bob Franke, 8 p.m. Chicopee.



Bob Franke will kick-off Villa Rose Restaurant — Fri., Sat. — Villa Gorillas, Windsor Locks, Conn. West Springfield VFW Club — Fri. — Western Comfort, West Springfield.

dinner/dance

- Bernardino** — Fri., Sat. — Off Limits, Chicopee.
- Collegian Court** — Sat. — Dan Kane Trio, Chicopee.

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country

- Amvets 12** — Fri., Sat. — Midnight Express, Chicopee.
- Billy T's** — tonight, Fri., Sat., Sun. — Lee Howell and Mavericks, West Springfield.
- Circle H Ranch** — Fri. — Fever, Sat. — Country Travelers, Holland.
- Homestead Inn** — Fri., Sat. — DJ with dance, Ludlow.
- Hotel Westfield** — Fri., Sat. — Willow Creek, Westfield.
- Pulaski Club** — Sat. — Country Friends, Chicopee.
- Ranch House** — tonight, Fri., Sat. — Joe Casey and County Reunion; Sun. — DJ, Springfield.
- Silver Dollar Saloon** — Fri., Sat. — Patty Ellen Country Band, Springfield.
- Southwick American Legion Post 338** — Fri. — Mike Baker and the Country Gentlemen, Southwick.
- Southwick Inn** — Fri., Sat. — Joey Baer and Whiskey Junction, South-



Gloria Estefan will be seen up close by this week's contest winner.

Winner gets grand seats

When Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine rock the Paramount Theater in Springfield on Nov. 7, Wally Zemrock, 13, of 91 Tokeneke Road in Holyoke will be as close to the action as a fan can get.

As the grand-prize winner in our latest quiz, Wally will receive a pair of *absolutely free* seats in the theater's front row. The tickets are worth \$33.

We also had two runners-up, who each will receive two top-shelf tickets to the show, worth

\$33 a pair.

The runners-up are: Denise Roman, 12, of 17 Desrosiers St. in Springfield and Wanda I. Mercado, 22, of 35 Cumberland St. in Springfield.

This was our 175th quiz since 1978, and it was tough. First, we told you that Gloria Estefan went to the University of Miami and got a college degree, just in case her music career didn't fly.

Then we asked you to identify the field in which Estefan got her degree. The answer: Psychology.

C.H.

Hear Yiddish music

The Wholesale Klezmer Band will return Saturday to Greenfield's Guiding Star Grange Hall at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of Yiddish dance and music.

The group, which is based in Amherst, plans a blend of traditional dance music, selections from the Yiddish theater and social protest songs. Klezmer, which originated in Eastern Europe, became blended with jazz and an array of other musical idioms when it was brought to this country by immigrants at the turn of the century.

Wholesale, founded in 1982, includes Joe Kurland of Leverett on violin, viola and guitar; Bill Tomczak on clarinet; Owen Davidson of Amherst on accordion, guitar, balalaika and bouzouki; Richie Davis of Bernardston on drums; Lynn Lovell of Hatfield on string bass; and Cort Dorsey of Wendell on trombone. Joining the band on Saturday will be guest violinist Wendy Foxmyn of Greenfield.

The evening will also include some brief instruction in Yiddish dancing.

Donation requested will be \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for children under

12, with seniors and children under 6 admitted free.

The Guiding Star Grange Hall is located near the Silver Street end of Chapman Street. Chapman Street runs north off Greenfield's Main Street, one block west of Wilson's. Take exit 26 off I-91.

Funding for the concert is provided by the Greenfield Arts Lottery Commission.

Museum shows

PITTSFIELD — Two shows are planned for this weekend at the Berkshire Museum.

John Hammond will appear Friday at 8 p.m. in the first performance in the Roots of American Music series.

Tickets are \$9, or \$7 for museum members, and may be purchased at the door. Call 443-7171 for more information.

Jim Vetter will perform mime and magic on Sunday at 2 p.m.

His performance is part of the museum's Music, Motion and Make-believe series. Tickets are \$3.50, or \$3 for members.

The Berkshire Museum is located at 39 South St.

best bets

Take a look over your shoulder Saturday at some vintage rock in a classic theater. Veterans Leon Russell and Edgar Winter, who have joined forces, plus John Mayall and his Bluesbreakers, will be at the Paramount Theater in Springfield.

Budding stars Max Creek will open this giant show at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.

On Sunday at 3 p.m. in John M. Greene Hall at Smith College in Northampton, there will be an Irish music extravaganza. A

variety show, "Autumn Shamrocks," will star the Paddy Noonan Entertainers, including singers Carmel Quinn and Andy Cooney, Irish step dancers and more.

In club fun, the Guess Who will stir rock memories Friday at Katina's in Hadley. On Sunday, singer/songwriter Eric Andersen and his new band will be at the Iron Horse Coffeehouse in Northampton for at least one show at 7 p.m.

C.H.

jai-alai tonight

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