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THE VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday, May 16, 1990 Austin American-Statesman

Television, B10

Linda Ronstadt headlines Aqua Fest

By Michael MacCambridge
Austin American-Statesman Staff

A lineup featuring rock 'n' roll legends Little Richard and Smokey Robinson, as well as contemporary hitmakers Linda Ronstadt and the Neville Brothers, was announced Tuesday to headline the 29th annual Austin Aqua Festival at Auditorium Shores this summer.

For the second time, the festival's musical schedule will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights on three consecutive weekends, this year falling on July 26-28, Aug. 2-4 and Aug. 9-11.

"We always try to get new bands in," said Lane Lauritzen, vice commander of entertainment. "We're always looking for people who don't come through all the time. And we try to put as much local talent in there as we possibly can. A lot of it is dependent upon who is playing in the middle of the summer."

Lauritzen said the festival's entertainment budget was about \$400,000 this year, up from \$350,000 in 1989.

Little Richard, the flamboyant singer and charter member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, will be the headlining center stage performer on opening night July 26. The silky-smooth Robinson, touring behind his recent album *Love, Smokey*, headlines the second weekend with his headlining show Aug. 4.

Ronstadt tops center stage the final night of the festival, with the Neville Brothers opening and Ronstadt collaborating with Austin Neville doing double duty, playing with his band early and Ronstadt late.

Aqua Fest organizers cut the two tent stages from the program after 1989's festival but is adding one back this year. With the center, rock and country stages, there will be four stages playing classic simultaneously all nine nights.

Other headlining acts will be country singer Rodney Crowell on July 27, new wave rocker Debbie Harry on the 28th, country mainstay the Gaffin Brothers on Aug. 3, former Doobie Brother Michael



Linda Ronstadt will perform on Aqua Fest's last night. Big names like Little Richard, bottom left, and Smokey Robinson start the first 2 nights.



San Antonio pop rocker Michael Morrison on Aug. 2; and RBM mainstays NRBQ Aug. 3 and Dr. John Aug. 9.

For the first time, Aqua Fest will feature rap groups, with Austin groups Project Crew, Cooly Girls and Qualified Totally headed by University of Texas grad and Olympic-class triple jumper John "J.T." Tillman, opening for the Buzzsaw and Bad Mutha Goose at the rock stage on 10.

■ Jerry Jeff Walker headlines the country stage on July 28, new country artist Mary Chapin Carpenter plays Aug. 10 and the Texas Tornados (featuring Freddy Fender, Augie Meyers, Doug Sahm and Flaco Jimenez) hold forth on the folk night.

■ The tent stage includes a diverse list of critically acclaimed performers. Former Wild Seed Michael Hail and the Alejandro Escovedo Orchestra headline opening night, with Darden Smith & Boo Howerside topping the tent on the 17th and Shawn Colvin on the 28th.

The final weekend includes a gospel set at the tent — with Austin's Voices of Harmony, Malachi and Belles of Joy playing — on Aug. 9, and singer extraordinaire Townes Van Zandt Aug. 10.

Admission will be \$8 a night for the final night, headlined by Ronstadt, and \$6 all other nights. People who buy \$3 Skipper pass prior to the festival get a 41 discount each night. The per-night discount for Skipper pass was cut from \$2 to \$1 this year.

"Instead of raising the entire gate prices for all nine nights, we decided to reduce the discount," said marketing director Cathy Bennett. "This was a way to give supporters a discount while still keeping our costs down."

Tickets for individual nights are expected to go on sale in early July.

Aqua Festival schedule

Here is the complete schedule of musical acts announced Tuesday for the 1990 Austin Aqua Festival at Auditorium Shores. A few performers have yet to be announced (indicated here with TBA).

THURSDAY, JULY 26

Center Stage — Little Richard, Joe King Carrasco
Country Stage — Les Roy Parrel, Ranch Romeros, Kibilly
Rock Stage — Ramon Delgado, Toys, Johnny Law
Tent Stage — Michael Hail, Alejandro Escovedo Orchestra, Elly & Methyl

FRIDAY, JULY 27

Center Stage — Rodney Crowell, Billy Hill
Country Stage — Billy Joe Royal, Christine Albert, T.T.
Rock Stage — Mason Ruffner, The Palatka, Mamou
Tent Stage — Darden Smith & Boo Howerside, Steve James

SATURDAY, JULY 28

Center Stage — Deborah Harry, The Tom Tom Club, Jerry Harrison, The Ramones
Country Stage — Jerry Jeff Walker, Mark Lane Dimes, High Noon
Rock Stage — Ben E. King, Junior Medico & Lesse Taylor, Ian Moore
Tent Stage — Shawn Colvin, Allison Rogers

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Center Stage — T.T.
Country Stage — Travis Tritt, Gary P. Nunn & Sons of the Bunkhouse Band, Row Branon Band
Rock Stage — Michael Morales, Third Person, The Chromatics
Tent Stage — Dave Corbin, Shoulders

FRIDAY, AUG. 10

Center Stage — Joe Ely, Big Car
Country Stage — Mary Chapin Carpenter, Tam Hendrix, Oceanicas
Rock Stage — Bad Mutha Goose, The Buzzsaw, Qualified Totally, Project Crew, Cooly Girls
Tent Stage — Townes Van Zandt, Datin

FRIDAY, AUG. 11

Center Stage — Linda Ronstadt, Neville Brothers
Country Stage — Texans Dames, Junior Brown
Rock Stage — Syro Gya, Tomas Ramirez, Texas Tornados
Tent Stage — Al Dresner and Stars Over Austin

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Mitsubishi takes mystery out of VCRs

audio systems. Mitsubishi says its new manuals are easier to understand. The company has made an effort to edit out all electronics jargon. The pages are not as cluttered as they once were, a new table of contents makes it easier to find particular issues.

For example, the old manuals said: "Random access channel selection of all VHF and UHF channels is operated by pressing the desired channel number."

The new manuals say: "Press the channel number to select any VHF channels or UHF channels."

Mitsubishi has decided to make its new manuals a distinct part of its future marketing.

The new manuals will start showing up this spring and will replace Mitsubishi's entire line by the end of the year.

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