

Entertainment

Singer plans Centennial gathering

Willie Nelson gains acceptance doing it his way

The bigger they are, the harder they've had to work to get there. That may not be a standard cliché, but it is the gist of the story of Willie Nelson's rise to the status of a contemporary national folk hero.

Nelson struggled for nearly three decades to gain popular acceptance of his music and his image. And although he does a lot more today than just write, record and perform music, he hasn't adjusted or compromised his sound in the least bit to try to get there.

Nelson is back on the road again, doing what he loves the most—performing his music before live audiences—which he still manages to do through one to two dates per year. Nelson and Family will make their first appearance in the Centennial Hall Sunday at 8 p.m.

The popular country entertainer has been touring since the 1950s, just barely scraping up enough money to get by, working in clubs around P. Worth, Texas, about 10 miles north of his hometown of Abilene.

Although the 50-year-old Nelson released his first record, "No Place To Go," in the mid-1950s, he was destined to earn a reputation as an outstanding songwriter before making an impact on the record industry.

"NIGHT LIFE," which Nelson penned in 1955, has become a classic, recorded by more than 40 artists and selling more than 10 million record copies. Nelson's "Crazy" became a huge hit in 1967 for the late country song stylist Patsy Cline. "Hello Walls" and "Funny How Time Slips Away" are just a couple of the songs he has written, many of which have been recorded by some of the most popular country and contemporary music artists.

With more than 300 songs to his name, Nelson was elected in 1973 to the Nashville Songwriters' Association's exclusive Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

After moving to Nashville in 1961, Nelson had some recording success with several albums on Liberty Records before moving to RCA in 1962. His "Guitar Hero" was a top 10 country hit, but did not reach that plateau again until 13 years later with "Blue Eyes Cryin' In The Rain," which hit number one in 1975.

During that dry spell, Nelson recorded about 10 albums, but his breakthrough came in 1972 with the album "Shred," which was produced by the late Bob Dylan. "Shred" was produced at the time Nelson was touring with his band, the "Stray Gators," and the album was produced at the time Nelson was touring with his band, the "Stray Gators," and the album was produced at the time Nelson was touring with his band, the "Stray Gators."

"Red Headed Stranger," which was produced, arranged and recorded in a day and a half, was released on Columbia Records in 1975. That album became Nelson's first million seller and spawned "Blue Eyes Cryin' In The Rain," which earned Nelson his first Grammy Award for "Best Country Vocal Performance, Male."

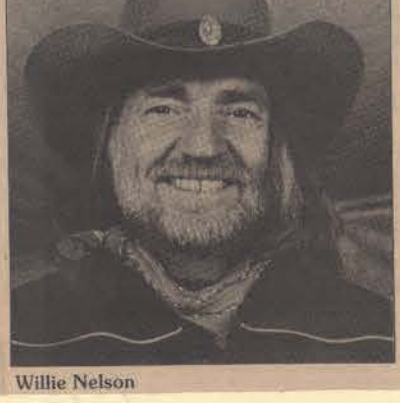
"Red Headed Stranger" is generally considered to be Nelson's breakthrough album. His next release, "The Sound In Your Mind," was chosen by Billboard Magazine as "Country Album Of The Year" and everything he has recorded since has become a popular success.

From his 1978 "The Outlaws" LP, which was produced by Billy Joe Shaver and Tompall Satterfield, to his most recent solo effort, "City On A Hill," Nelson's albums have been produced by an increasingly diverse group of producers. Nelson has remained true to the traditions in which he was raised and the music he has been playing all along.

Although his music continues to be Nelson's first love, he has had to appear on television about 100 times in his career. Nelson has appeared in two major television series, "Honeydew" and "Barfoot." Through the soundtrack of the movie he's appeared in, Nelson has had a primary purpose in mind: to get his music to the widest audience possible.

HAVING APPEARED on the covers of dozens of national magazines including Newsweek, People and Rolling Stone, Nelson has been featured on television about 100 times in his career. Nelson has appeared in two major television series, "Honeydew" and "Barfoot." Through the soundtrack of the movie he's appeared in, Nelson has had a primary purpose in mind: to get his music to the widest audience possible.

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Willie Nelson

Warm Breeze From Texas

Willie Nelson Gives Town An Avalanche Of Sound

By HANK DARVEY

A warm breeze from Texas blew into Centennial Hall last night as Willie Nelson and family performed for a merry folk house of clapping, singing and cheering fans.

Nelson stomped in with a two-piece band, including his son-in-law, the late Bob Dylan's son, and a horn section, giving the audience a welcome change from the usual fare of pop and rock.

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to Centennial Hall
thanks
Why?



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1982

New Songs, Old Favorites

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young Large Centennial Hall Concert

By RALPH KIRBY

The reform group of Crosby, Stills & Nash played a semi-capacity audience at Centennial Hall Tuesday night in its 10th anniversary celebration. The group, which has been together since 1970, played a semi-capacity audience at Centennial Hall Tuesday night in its 10th anniversary celebration. The group, which has been together since 1970, played a semi-capacity audience at Centennial Hall Tuesday night in its 10th anniversary celebration.

The band included a healthy number of new songs, including "Lovers" and "The Way It Was," which were well-received. The band also played several of their classic hits, including "Suite Life of Sam Bartholomew" and "Suite Life of Sam Bartholomew."

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THE BLADE

TOLEDO, OHIO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1982

THE BLADE TOLEDO, OHIO, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1982

Bob Seger, Silver Bullets Fly High At Centennial Hall

By RALPH KIRBY

Bob Seger and his Silver Bullet Band played a sold-out concert at Centennial Hall last night. The band, which has been together since 1970, played a sold-out concert at Centennial Hall last night. The band, which has been together since 1970, played a sold-out concert at Centennial Hall last night.

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Chicago, Beach Boys Team Up For Concert

By Tony Bassett

The Beach Boys and Chicago are teaming up for a concert at Centennial Hall. The concert, which is scheduled for next month, will feature both bands performing their classic hits.

The concert was a success, with the band playing to a sold-out audience. The band also played several of their classic hits, including "Suite Life of Sam Bartholomew" and "Suite Life of Sam Bartholomew."

Beach Boys, Chicago: part nostalgia and part fame

By DAVID VINCE

The Beach Boys and Chicago are teaming up for a concert at Centennial Hall. The concert, which is scheduled for next month, will feature both bands performing their classic hits.

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Segar's Fans Flood Ticket Line Despite Poor Ticket

By BENJAMIN MARRON

Bob Seger's fans showed up in large numbers at Centennial Hall to buy tickets for his concert. The concert, which is scheduled for next month, will feature Seger performing his classic hits.

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Chicago, Beach Boys Set To Play

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Summer Concert

Segar brings old-time rock 'n' roll to Toledo

By Larry Volpe/Collegian Staff Writer

Bob Seger brought a wave of old-time rock 'n' roll to Toledo last night. The concert, which was held at Centennial Hall, featured Seger performing his classic hits.

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