

MUSIC in Mid-America

Joe Walsh and Barnstorm in concert at Memorial Hall: Joe Walsh, guitar and vocals; Joe Vitale, drums, tympani, flute; Rock Grace, piano; Kenny Passarelli, bass; Tom Stephenson, organ and Arp synthesizer, with Focus and Blue Oyster Cult.

By Nancy Ball

It was never clear who was to have had top billing last night, Joe Walsh being the most established musician of the lot. For some reason he appeared first, which catered to the commercial arrangement of the groups, but destroyed the building of any real musical interest.

Walsh had to come on cold turkey, but adapted well to the slot. His writing and playing talents proved to be even more expansive than in his days with the James Gang—the entire set hanging together as if it were one piece.

The maturity of Barnstorm's musicianship was immediately evident. Each instrument is utilized with respect to its own proper purpose within the total sound. Therefore all the leads made sense, as did the overall composition of the material.

Walsh is an extremely creative guitarist, and he gets the support he deserves from his present group. Despite some acoustical pitfalls Memorial Hall reverberated with cathedral-like tone as Walsh applied his subtle touch.

After the Barnstorm set, the music became progressively

simpler, relying heavily on repetition to build the audience's energy level. This was especially true in the case of Focus, a Dutch group, briefly interesting for their novelty. Blue Oyster Cult came off much better, though their strengths are primarily in speed and steadily increasing force.

Although the Big Beat kept getting bigger all the truly interesting music had been played by the end of the Barnstorm set. With them, Walsh recalled the James Gang's better days, as well as even better days ahead for his new group. They will most likely prove an inspiring influence on the direction of quality rock music.

MISSOURI—KANSAS CITY

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125 East 5th

Kansas City, Missouri

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BARTHOLOW

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Lincoln Mall

Ward Parkway Center
Kansas City, Missouri

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BENNETT SCHNEIDER

300 Ward Parkway

Kansas City, Missouri