

Concerts

Joe 'King' Carrasco parties into town



Joe 'King' Carrasco in concert

by Angel Stokes
Battalion staff

Joe "King" Carrasco is coming to College Station on Oct. 29 and he is "looking forward to partying."

"Playing here last spring was great," Carrasco said in a recent telephone interview. "It was one of the best gigs all year."

He hopes the concert has the same crowd as the last one, he says, because "it was really wild."

Carrasco says he loves to play in open atmospheres where the audience can move around.

"I would like all my shows to be like that," he says, "...it's healthy."

Carrasco and the Crowns, his band, are on a "mini Texas tour." Members of the Crowns are Kris Cummings — keyboards, Bruce Moody — bass and Dick Ross — drums.

Audience participation varies from place to place, Carrasco says.

"Texas audiences have more soul," he says. Texans express themselves through making noise and moving around, he says.

Other audiences are more subdued, he says. The audiences in California sit around, he says, and wonder what the

people next to them are thinking.

"Other audiences don't party like Texans," Carrasco says.

Carrasco, a native Texan, says he created his Tex-Mex image because he spends time in Mexico and has played with several Chicano bands.

"I like that type music," he says. Texas has a heavy Spanish influence, he says, and music style should be indicative to where you live.

His latest album, which came out last spring, "Party Weekend" has been praised from New York to Dallas. The August issue of Playboy calls Carrasco's music "polka rock."

Asked if "polka rock" is misleading, Carrasco says no.

"To be honest, he says, "my songs are borrowed for the Spanish and Chicano polkas...I take a polka melody and turn it into a rock style." He says in the song "Burnin' it Down" he borrowed ideas from Spanish influences.

The concert in College Station will be the group's last this year, he says. After October, he says he will be working on some new material in Mexico, Jamaica or Europe.

Carrasco says he should have a new album out next spring. When the new album comes

out, he probably will produce a new video for MTV. It takes lots of money to put out videos for MTV and it's better to put out videos with albums.

"We just shot a live video in Austin about two weeks ago," he says, but it probably won't make MTV.

Carrasco says he frequently watches MTV. The format has tightened up in past year or so, he says, and the quality of videos has improved. The videos are really lavish now, he says.

But Carrasco says MTV plays too many heavy metal videos — not very very entertaining in his opinion.

"I would rather watch a video that tells a story." He says some of his favorite videos are by Madness. The first Carrasco video was produced by the same guy who does the Madness videos.

The concert will be at the Heavy Metal Coliseum. Opening for Carrasco will be the local band Rackitt. Advertised as the Full Moon Costume Concert, prizes will be given for the best costumes. Tickets are available at Tip Top Records and Tapes and Hastings for \$9. Food and drinks will be available and seating is festival.

Group sponsors 2nd Gospelfest

by Nicole Williams
Battalion reporter

The Voices of Praise, Texas A&M's gospel singing group, will sponsor the second annual Gospelfest Saturday in Rudder Theater.

The three-hour program, cosponsored with the MSC Black Awareness Committee, will feature six groups from other schools, churches and communities across Texas.

Groups representing Sam Houston State University, the University of Texas, Prairie View A&M University, Christian Hope Baptist Church and Texas A&M University will perform. A solo performance by Bryan resident Myra Winkley also is included in the program.

The idea for a Gospelfest came from the choir's desire to offer a variety of gospel selections to students and the community, says Tracy Howard, president of the group.

"We want to share the music with everyone, exposing them to the uplifting expression of praise represented by gospel music," says Caethia Cole, program manager for MSC Black Awareness.

Howard says she best de-

scribes Gospelfest as a gospel musical. No competition is involved.

Last year's Gospelfest brought more than 300 people to the theater, and this year's attendance is expected to increase because of better publicity.

"We're expecting a full house this year," says Bobby Bisor, choir chaplain.

Howard says the group has been practicing a lot lately in preparation for the performance.

The Voices of Praise practice weekly in the facilities also used by the Texas A&M Singing Cadets.

In addition, the group sometimes practices on Sunday evenings at the grand piano located in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center.

The group is led by Malcolm Davis, who started the group three years ago.

Howard says everyone is invited to attend their practices, and anyone interested in singing gospel music is invited to join them.

Gospelfest begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time or at the door and are \$2 for students and \$3 for non-students.

Air Supply to perform

by Angel Stokes
Battalion staff

After cancelling its concert set for Sept. 23, Air Supply will be in College Station Oct. 28. The concert was rescheduled so that lead singer Russell Hitchcock could recover from laryngitis.

Air Supply — formed in Australia in 1976 — is known for its mellow love songs. Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock formed the group after meeting in a production of "Jesus Christ, Superstar."

The seven-member band, known for such hits as "All Out Love," "Every Woman in the World," "The One That You Love," "Here I Am" and "Sweet Dreams," has been called the greatest pop group of the '80s by Billboard magazine.

Its current hit, "Making Love," has been in Billboard's number two spot for the past few weeks.

Russell writes most of the songs for the group and both he and Hitchcock sing.

Air Supply began the North American portion of its 1983 World Tour in California in May. Jordache Enterprises, Inc. is sponsoring the United



Russell Hitchcock and Graham Russell of Air Supply will perform Friday.

States portion of the tour.

Before coming to the States, Air Supply began its tour in the Far East. The tour, which started in April, has been to promote the group's new album, Air Supply's Greatest Hits.

The back-up band with original members Ralph Cooper — drums and Frank Esler-Smith — keyboards, has ex-

panded to include Don Cromwell — bass, Ken Rarick — synthesizer and Wally Stocker — guitar.

The John Hall Band will open the concert. The band is known for its single "Crazy" and the MTV video featuring the song.

The concert will be at 8 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.