



MARK FORTIN  
Successful gig

## Mark Fortin did it his way at Brodie's

By STEVE HOUSTON

Local musician Mark James Fortin made like Ol' Blue Eyes last weekend at Brodie's Grill in Unionville and did it his way.

Back for a return engagement after a successful March appearance, Mark once again took the crowd through the paces with a repertoire of original and cover songs.

He played three sets of mostly original music, and the capacity crowd enjoyed every note. Standard favorites were strategically placed in between to keep Top 40 listeners happy.

John Cougar Mellencamp's 'Jack and Diane' was convincingly played; Mark's vocal range is uncannily similar to Mellencamp's and the audience ate it up.

"It was a packed house again — a big success," Fortin said of the weekend engagement. "Saturday was even bigger than Friday when I started off a little slower. On Saturday I went all out."

Accompanied by an electronic drum machine, he opened the first set with Emotional Rain, an original number recorded on his forthcoming debut LP.

It's a nifty little number, dotted with electronic snare rashes and a catchy rhythm. Overriding it all is Fortin's incredible vocal range as he sings of love lost.

He slowed things down a little with Bossa Nova Rhythm and an untitled song he wrote while in Greece. The middle portion of the set was filled with cover versions of well known Top 40 numbers. Corey Hart, Bruce Springsteen and Mellencamp hits gave listeners a chance at familiarity.

Fortin ended the set with a rousing couple of tunes that he really enjoys playing — Summer Harvest and Cruisin'. Both will be on the debut album.

Cruisin' is an upbeat number and it finished the set on a fast note, giving the crowd a sample of what to expect as the night wore on.

Mark said he's pleased with the local response to his music and appreciates the support he's received.

Despite his lack of a recording contract his future looks prosperous. Toronto radio stations have shown interest in audition tapes and he plans to tour the Maritimes this summer.

He and Manager Gary Toombs are also finalizing a tentative July date at the Markham Theatre for Performing Arts.

"Things are looking good at this point," he noted.

## Liona Boyd 'wows' 'em' at Uxbridge Music Hall

Liona Boyd left little doubt among her legion of Uxbridge followers that she is Canada's 'first lady of the guitar'.

The internationally-acclaimed performer's mastery of the classical instrument enthralled a capacity audience at Uxbridge Music Hall April 19.

She played a selection of 'Songs of My Childhood', many of which were transcribed and arranged for guitar by the artist herself. Others were written by Richard Fortin.

Though Ms. Boyd's in demand at major venues throughout the world, she still finds time in a busy concert and recording schedule for some smaller engagements. Part of Uxbridge's attraction was the historic Music Hall's superb acoustics, in evidence throughout her varied program.

Extensive tours have taken the guitarist to Europe, the Far East, Caribbean and South Pacific as well as North, South and Central America. She performed for Heads of State from Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Trinidad, Jamaica, Cuba, Spain, the United States and Canada.

Ms. Boyd has recorded 12 record albums and received Juno awards for instrumental artist of the year. Other honors include The Vanier Award, Honorary Doctorate and The Order of Canada.

The Music Hall's entertainment committee has wasted no time booking more top-flight acts for its 1986-87 concert series.

The Moe Koffman Quintet plays Uxbridge Nov. 1, followed by Bolcom and Morris (a husband and

wife pianist/mezzo soprano team) on Feb. 28, 1987 and the National Tap Dance Co. April 25.

A three-ticket package, at \$35, will be available to subscribers June 1.



Classical guitarist Liona Boyd autographs an album for fan Sue Rance following her April 19 performance at Uxbridge Music Hall. The hall's entertainment committee recently finalized its 1986-87 concert series, which kicks off Nov. 1 with the Moe Koffman Quintet.

— Chris Shanahan

## By day he's a clerk, by night a musician

By CHRIS SHANAHAN  
Staff Reporter

When Walter Taylor's not serving in his capacity as municipal clerk for Uxbridge Township, it's a safe bet he's behind the keyboards as a member of The Taylor Brothers.

The Goodwood resident teams with sax-playing brother Sandy Taylor of Woodville and two other musicians to work area lounges and a variety of community events, including last year's Markham Fair.

Mr. Taylor describes the band's style of music as fast-paced, but easy on the ears.

"Our show is admittedly commercial, aimed at the nebulous mid-point between the very young who want new and dynamic tunes including many of the latest recordings, and the more mature in the audience who want softer, more familiar songs," he explains.

Each member of The Taylor Brothers — including Markham's Rick Davis on guitar and drum-

mer Bob Rutledge of Etobicoke — has a full-time job and views the quartet's musical endeavors largely as a weekend sideline. The group just finished a booking at the Greens of Stouffville restaurant and can be seen next at Timothy's Steakhouse in Newmarket.

Mr. Taylor says all the members enjoy performing at the refurbished Greens venue in Success Square Plaza and expect to return in the near future.

Walter, Bob and Sandy played as a trio for over a decade before Rick joined them about a year ago.

The musicians share vocal duties and hope to eventually concentrate on more lucrative gigs.

"What we're trying to get into are the larger one-night engagements," the keyboard player explains. "We'd like to do the larger corporate parties."

And recording is also a future goal, especially for Walter who's penning Andre Gagnon-style piano stylings with that in mind. He's also writing some contemporary songs strictly for public performance.

Walter and Bob went professional as a duo in the early 1970s then played full-time for three years as members of the band Fat Chance.

"One of the first jobs that Bob (Rutledge) and I ever did as a duo was at the old Colonial Tavern in 1971," Mr. Taylor recalled. "We were playing between sets for Muddy Waters."



The Taylor Brothers play easy-listening music that ranges from contemporary to classic. Members are (from left) Rick Davis, Sandy Taylor, Walter Taylor and Bob Rutledge.