

Mariposa scores a star lineup

Better late than never.

The Mariposa Festival finally entered the 1980s yesterday, unveiling an eclectic summer lineup that features the best of the new acoustic music without trampling on sacred tradition.

The roster for the June 24-26 festival at Molson Park in Barrie, announced at a press conference, includes some of today's best songwriters and instrumentalists: California guitarist/fiddler **David Lindley**, Nashville songwriter **John Hiatt**, New Yorker Loudon **Wainwright III**, new country sensation **Lyle Lovett** and Minnesota 12-string ace **Leo Kottke**.

Even the Canadian talent reflects modern values, with acts such as former L'Etranger singer **Andrew Cash**, Cee Dees frontman **Curtis Driedger** and crack Toronto reggae band **Messenjah**.

Other mainstage stars will help link the 28th festival to its folksy past. They include songwriters **Arlo Guthrie**, **John Prine**, **Byrds** founder **Roger McGuinn**, **John Hartford** and **Jonathan Edwards**, singers **Maria Muldaur** and **Bonnie Raitt**, British folk-rocker **Donovan**, American bluesmen **John Hammond** and **Taj Mahal**, Cape Breton singer **John Allan Cameron** and East Coast traditionalists **The Barra MacNeils**.

Organizers refused to reveal the festival's budget, but artistic director **Drago Maleiner** admitted it was "substantially more than last year" when the talent bill was a measly \$59,000.



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Pop notes

Molson's, the festival's sponsor, is determined to build the image of its Barrie park, which has languished behind Ontario Place and Kingswood in recent summers.

Ticket prices reflect the upgrade in talent. A special "early bird" pass, for all festival events, will be available for \$47.50 until May 1. It rises to \$60 after that.

Tickets for each daytime and evening segment of the festival will cost \$15.

Maleiner said additional Canadian acts will be booked later. "We wanted to get the power players signed first, before somebody else scooped them," he said, adding that several of the American stars will appear in workshops.

Tickets will go on sale within the week.

Reckless Daughter: When **Joni Mitchell** was in town this week to tub-thump her new *Chalk Mark In A Rain Storm* album, she let drop that she'd like to work with funk genius **Prince**, who is only too happy to oblige. Said **Mitchell**: "He wrote a tune for me for this album but it was a little too 'Merry Widow' for me."

Husked: Minneapolis thrash veterans **Husker Du** have broken up, citing creative and philosophical differences. Those close to the group say the band has been in a tailspin for months, although they still sounded good when they played RPM last fall.

On Deck: Hard rock veterans **AC/DC** likely won't play Toronto till fall, but the band is scheduled for a show at Hamilton's Copps Coliseum on May 12. Tickets, at \$21.50 plus service charge, go on sale Saturday at all BASS outlets.

A triple bill of the new metal hits the Concert Hall April 18 with **Megadeth**, **Warlock** and **Sanctuary**. Tickets are on sale for \$19.50 plus service charge at BASS.



Loudon Wainwright III: New Yorker is included in star lineup at Mariposa this summer.

Broadway singer dies at age 35

LOS ANGELES (AP) — **L. Michael Gray**, a gospel singer who appeared in Broadway musicals and performed with **Stevie Wonder**, **Phoebie Snow** and **Billy Preston**, has died at age 35.

Mr. Gray, whose real name was **Michael L. Gray**, died of a pulmonary embolism Saturday at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark, N.J., hospital spokesman **Patrick Johnson** said yesterday.

Mr. Gray was the singing voice for the cartoon character **Fat Albert**, said his sister, **April Davis**.

He began singing gospel songs in

Los Angeles church choirs as a boy and most recently was a choir member at West Angeles Church of God and Christ, his sister said.

Mr. Gray appeared on Broadway in *Your Arms Too Short To Box With God* and *The Wiz*, she said.

He also was a back-up singer to **Stevie Wonder**, **Phoebie Snow**, **Eddie Kendricks**, **Billy Preston** and **Connie Stevens**.

Mr. Gray is survived by his parents, **J.W.** and **Clara Davis**, a brother, and five sisters.

A funeral is set for tomorrow.