



Performing to ovations, Joni Mitchell showed a new tenderness in her lovely quiet songs.

Standing ovation for Joni, David

By SID ADILMAN

Joni Mitchell and David Rea came home to the Mariposa Folk Festival last night.

Joni, now a recognized weaver of songs and living in Laurel Canyon from which pop legends are born, and Rea, an innovator of country guitar strumming and unusually powerful lyrics, are children of Mariposa.

More than any other performers over Mariposa's last five years, the pair, performing separately and to standing ovations at the concluding concert, stand for what the annual festival is all about.

Joni first performed at Mariposa, a skinny kid, unknown and carrying her guitar over her shoulder with a few songs to offer. Rea kept to the shadows, accompanying Gordon Lightfoot, later Ian and Sylvia. At Mariposa, they were given their chance to work display their craft.

Last night, Rea, in Elvis Presley gold satin pants, wine-colored shirt and buckskin, beat a time that was all his own — from a song titled Maverick Child, to a high-flying version of David and Goliath.

No longer the man of the

shadows, he was eight years, Rea has, in the jargon, "brought it all together" to wild applause.

Joni Mitchell brought with her some lovely quiet songs that she performed last year, one of the last public concerts she has given in a year — Marci, the girl alone in the big city, and Nathan LaFrenier, the crass, harsh cab driver.

And on her hand-fashioned dulcimer, she showed a new tenderness — California I'm Coming Home, a tale of a world wanderer hungry for home and the comforts it brings — a woman homesick and bored with looking for excitement in Spain and France.

It wouldn't be right to ignore the night's other performers. James Taylor, a powerhouse of a singer, drew another standing ovation, and emcee Owen McBride, a Mariposa regular, threw out Irish ditties that were filled with earthy comments on life.

Sara Grey added her own quiet moments and sustained the mood despite interruptions from the sound system.

It was a typical Mariposa program, subtly woven by its program director Estelle Klein, mood-sustaining and gentle throughout.