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UA37/39 Gemini 77 Post-Tour Report

David Livingston
Gemini 77

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PERSONNEL

GEMINI '77

Post-Tour Report

USO Show Tour of the Caribbean Command

USO Overseas Show - CMC #417

July 25, 1977 - August 18, 1977

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Dr. DAVID LIVINGSTON
UNIT MANAGER

PERSONNEL
GEMINI '77

MIKE FRYE, A SENIOR BIOLOGY MAJOR FROM ELIZABETHTOWN, PLAYS GUITAR AND SINGS WITH THE GROUP. MIKE HAS BEEN WORKING PROFESSIONALLY FOR 5 YEARS AND HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE USO.

PAM GREENWAY IS AN 18 YEAR OLD NATIVE OF NASHVILLE. HER INTERESTS ARE TRAINING AND SHOWING TENNESSEAN WALKING HORSES AS WELL AS SINGING WITH THE "GEMINI '77".

JEFF JANSKY IS A 21 YEAR OLD SENIOR MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR FROM LEESBURG, FLORIDA. PLAYING TRUMPET AND ARRANGING ARE HIS MAJOR INTERESTS.

KAREN JOHNSON, FROM LAFAYETTE, TENNESSEE, PLAYS TRUMPET, PIANO, AND SINGS. KAREN TRANSFERRED AS AN UNDERGRADUATE FROM VOLUNTEER STATE IN GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.

JEFF JONES, FROM BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY HAS BEEN PLAYING DRUMS PROFESSIONALLY FOR 8 YEARS. A GRADUATE STUDENT MAJ- ORING IN HISTORY, JEFF HAS ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED IN PER- FORMANCE GROUPS IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AND HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE USO.

ED MARSH, WHO PLAYS BASS GUITAR, ELECTRIC VIOLIN, AND SINGS, IS A SENIOR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND HAILS FROM BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA.

PATIENCE NAVE, 18 YEARS OLD AND FORMERLY OF NORTH CAROLINA, NOW CALLS KENTUCKY HOME. SHE IS AN HONOR STUDENT IN PHAR- MACY AND, WHEN NOT SPENDING HOURS WITH MUSIC, SHE LOVES TO WATER SKI AND RIDE HORSES.

DAVID LIVINGSTON, MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND ARRANGER FOR GEMINI '77, IS PROFESSOR OF THEORY AND COMPOSITION AT WESTERN KEN- TUCKY UNIVERSITY. DR. LIVINGSTON IS A NATIVE OF HARLAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

"Gemini '77"
CMC - USO Overseas Unit No.417
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dr. David Livingston, Unit Manager

The Western Kentucky University instrumental and vocal ensemble, "Gemini '77", CMC - USO Overseas Unit No.417, presented their show to the Veterans' Hospitals at Murphreesboro and Nashville before departing from Nashville on Monday, July 25, 1977 for a twenty-five day tour of the Caribbean circuit, terminating August 18, 1977. Seventeen performances were presented to over 5,012 enlisted men and dependents stationed in the Caribbean (including the patients of the two hospitals).

The group flew commercial from Nashville to Charleston, South Carolina and MAC on to Panama. Then from island to island they flew mostly military with only a couple of commercial flights.

Only one performance (Grand Turk) was cancelled. This was due to lack of transportation as scheduled. All performances almost without exception began on time.

The following chart which includes the itinerary has been compiled to delineate pertinent information such as the date of each show, whether or not advance publicity was disseminated, the attendance, and the sponser of each show. If there are question marks in column five, those particular shows received little or no publicity, otherwise the shows were adequately publicized. The question mark in column six suggests that the number of people that watched the T.V. performance is unknown.

DATE	QUARTERS	TIME	SITE	ADV. PUB	ATT.	SPONSOR OR ESCORT OFF.
7-26	Quarry Hgts. B.O.Q.	19:00	<u>Panama Canal Zone</u> Valent RC		175	Lt. Harry Church
7-27		19:45	The Cellar	?	135	" "
7-28		19:00	Ft. Sherman	?	45	" "
7-29		8:30	Howard AFB Theatre		750	" "
7-29		19:00	Ft. Davis Theatre		250	" "
			<u>Puerto Rico</u>			
7-31	Ft. Buchanan B.O.Q.	13:00	P.R. Vet. Hospital		75	Mario Farulla
7-31		18:00	Ft. Buchanan Theatre		310	" "
8-1	Ramey A.F.B. B.O.Q.	19:30	Coast Guard Club		210	" "
			<u>Guantanamo Cuba</u>			
8-3	Gitmo B.O.Q.	19:00	Downtown Lyceum		750	Jon Bollin
8-4		19:00	Leeward Point Lyceum		250	" "
			<u>Puerto Rico Roosevelt Rds.</u>			
8-5	Roosevelt Rds. B.O.Q.	15:00	R.R. T.V. Station		?	Renata Roberts
8-6		20:00	N.C.O. Club		250	" "
			<u>Barbadus</u>			
8-8	Barbadus E.M.Q.		B. Pavilion		250	Curtis Speaks
			<u>Antigua</u>			
8-9	Pan Am B.O.Q.	20:00	Outdoor Theatre		275	Ray Earls
			<u>Eleuthera</u>			
8-12	Eleuthera E.M.Q.	20:30	Naval Base Club		125	George Cornnish
8-13		20:00	" "		125	" "
8-14	Andros B.O.Q.	19:00	Andros Theatre		200	Rich Hunt

POSITIVE ASPECTS

Positive aspects of Gemini '77 Caribbean Tour were innumerable. However, some of the highlights were:

(1) Performance at Howard Air Base in Panama.

The response was so great from the 750 servicemen at Howard Air Base that the performers felt for the first time that they really were contributing to spirit and morale of U.S. troops overseas. This, in turn, boosted the pride of the group and they approached each succeeding performance with the knowledge that they had a good show.

(2) Performance at the Navac Station Lyceum, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

This large audience of 750 proved to be also very responsive and called Gemini '77 back again and again for bows and encores.

Other positive aspects of the tour would surely have to include the many fine people that seemingly went "beyond the call of duty" to make the trip so much more pleasant and enjoyable than it would have been without their efforts. Some of these are: Lt. Harry Church and his special service detachment in the Panama Canal Zone; Jon Bollin in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Renata Roberts at Roosevelt Rds., Puerto Rico; Curtis Speaks and his family in Barbados; Ray Earls and Rod Garner in Antigua; George Cornnish at Eleuthera; and Rich Hunt in Andros, who was one of the finest and most organized of all those that we met.

Having studied the report of the Sunflower Singers '74 (Kansas) and their USO show tour of the Caribbean Command, I

can honestly say that the Gemini '77 didn't experience nearly the difficulties that the Kansas group had. So there must have been a more dedicated effort on everyone's part to make this Caribbean tour a real success in terms of coordination and co-operation.

NEGATIVE ASPECTS

Negative aspects of the Caribbean tour were very few. Some of these were:

(1) Customs. Several trips through customs, especially coming into Miami from the Panama Canal Zone in order to make connection between Miami and Puerto Rico, were very difficult. Because the Panama plane was 45 minutes late, we had less than an hour to go through customs, check in at the Eastern desk with all of our equipment and baggage, and board the plane to Puerto Rico. Panic! Panic! We barely made it.

At Nassau, the Bahamasair would not accept the excess baggage coupon, and the manager had to pay this himself (\$112.50). The customs people in Nassau suggested that individual passports would have been better than driver's licenses for entry into that country.

(2) Liat Airline. This airline was a bit indifferent and uncooperative and on the flight from Barbados to Antigua they misplaced the bass drum. Fortunately, it arrived on the next flight.

(3) Departure taxes. The group paid departure taxes at

three different airports: Panama, \$5 each; Barbados, \$3 each; Nassau, \$3 each.

Even with the hassles and some unpleasantries, this Caribbean tour was for the members of Gemini '77 a "chance-in-a-lifetime" opportunity to travel and to learn while serving. The rapport and fellowship with the servicemen after the shows also proved very satisfying and rewarding.

This is the fourth USO tour that I have personally been involved with and I have seen a marked improvement from the first tour (Caribbean, 1967) to this one in coordination, organization, and cooperation among the people (USO, D.O.D., Special Services, and volunteers) involved. In my opinion, our Gemini '77 group had a much better, faster moving show this time with 8 people than we had with 15 people ten years ago. We have learned a lot and we are very grateful to have these kinds of opportunities to get such educational and broadening experiences. My appreciation, as well as the students', is expressed to Western Kentucky University, the USO, the National Music Council and the Department of Defense for making this tour possible.

Dr. David Livingston
Manager

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

of

Gemini '77

- (1) Group was paid for 22 days and they have 3 days pay coming
- \$60.00 each.
- (2) Departure Airport Tax
 - Panama - \$5.00 Each (\$40 Total)
 - Barbados - \$3.00 Each (\$24 Total)
 - Nassau - \$3.00 Each (\$24 Total)
(No receipts available. We asked for receipts but they would not give them to us.)
- (3) Two automobiles used for transportation to the Veterans Hospitals prior to the Caribbean tour.
 - 200 miles for each car (round trip)
 - Mileage to be paid to David Livingston and Pam Greenway
- (4) Overcharge for billets in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
 - 3 days at \$8.00 per day - two people: David Livingston
and Pam Greenway
- (5) Manager (David Livingston) paid excess baggage fare from Nassau to Miami as the Bahamasair would not accept excess baggage coupon - \$112.70 (Receipt attached)
- (6) One member (Jeff Jansky) did not return to Nashville but changed his ticket for a flight to Orlando, Florida. Eastern Airlines said that they would send him a refund of approximately \$33.00. When he receives the refund, it will be forwarded to the USO Headquarters in New York.