

# Andy Williams Brings Along Guitarist

Andy Williams is singing the Antonio Carlos Jobim bossa nova songbook in Harrah's Tahoe South Shore Room nightly "live" with Jobim, himself, playing acoustical guitar accompaniment and never have two talents been wedded together with more tenderness or with magical results.

Were Williams to sing only Jobim-composed songs or Jobim to write only for Andy, neither would be guilty of an artistic or commercial mistake.

Smooth-singing Williams, the wholesome-looking, blue-eyed all-American boy who wraps each word in lyrical gauze, has an approach to singing that is always sensitive. He sings with the parallel aims of the water-colorist; his words are soft as the artist's pastels; his composites are benevolent; the water color whispers rather than shouts.

Andy opened the night swiftly enough with a racy arrangement of "In the Still of the Night." He rocked that and came back

with, "Who Can I Turn To," "Red Roses for a Blue Lady," and "Without a Song."

While a howling audience applauded, Andy dashed offstage to shuck his tuxedo coat and return wearing his trademark, a sweater. But this one was a nightclub version. It was a scarlet affair with a white turtle neck dickie.

Jobim, the Brazilian composer, came onto the stage, and he and Williams seated themselves atop those patented television resting places, tall stools, and the evening was irrevocably changed. Andy never looked back.

Jobim is a 38-year-old, dark-eyed tunesmith, renowned for many years in South America, long before his acknowledgment here in the United States, as one of the century's great popular composers. If he didn't give birth to bossa nova (literally "new beat" in Spanish), he was certainly in charge of the obstetrics.

"Girl from Ipanema" was the first Jobim song Andy sang,

and though the song has its humorous aspects, fully indulged in by the mischievous Earl Grant, and though it has been sung on records and in performances by most of the country's top singers, particularly the distaffers with jazz tendencies, Williams brought it a new perspective. Since Jobim is on hand for special consultation one can assume the Williams' version is the one the composer intended.

Andy brought "Girl..." and Jobim's guitar into a vocal blend that is all but indescribable; the harmonic sense that is behind it is completely without North American parallel.

The two then essayed, "She's a Carioca," carioca meaning a native Rio girl, according to Jobim. It's a warmly anecdotal song of love about an unpredictable, but thoroughly worthwhile-effort, young lady. Again, Williams scored in English while Jobim chipped in a few Spanish phrases.

Andy is a guy from Wall Lake, Iowa, allegedly filled with the spirit of new-mown hay and corn as-high-as-an-elephant's etc., but hear him sing this and you know he will be remembered for where he went, like Columbus, not for where he came from.

The third song the pair did was, "Roses," a beautifully poignant love song made for under-the-table hand-holding.

If you and your gal are planning on listening to one song together all year, make it this one by Williams, pal. She'll sing while she's doing the dishes the rest of the month.

When Jobim left for the even-

ing, Andy couldn't have shaken the mellow mood the two had created if he sang all night.

He tried with a wonderfully silly, "You Don't Want My Love," filled with "ahh... hahh's," foot-stamping, hillbilly accent and a receptive audience. Four endings on the song added the one-more-time

and a fine feeling of joie de vivre among the patrons.

Then Williams sang, "Hawaiian Wedding Song," and only the late Alfred Apaka of Hawaii ever sang it as well.

Here was Andy singing to a jammed house, one filled with celebrity golfers winding up an immense week of fun in Harrah's Invitational Golf Tournament, and these people know how to enjoy themselves.

Yet the room hushed as quiet as a nursery when Andy began the song. It was respect for a magnificent song sung with soul and depth of feeling. Credit Andy with having left the farm far behind and credit Dave Grushin with a brilliant arrangement.

Andy plays Harrah's with comic Howie Storm; the spintangling John Woodd acrobats, the Moro-Landis Dancers and Leighton Noble and his Orchestra through June 21.



**BARRIER?** — Only language is a barrier between Andy Williams and Brazilian composer, Antonio Carlos Jobim. The music they make in Harrah's Tahoe South Shore Room needs no translation.