

Andy Williams Reliving Jobim



THIS IS Andy Williams . . . relaxed . . . casual . . . yet at work weaving a song from a thousand bubbling lyrics . . . in Harrah's Tahoe South Shore Room.

Andy Williams is singing the Antinio Carlos Jobim bossa nova songbook in Harrah's Tahoe South Shore Room tonight . . . "live" . . . with Jobim, himself, playing acoustical guitar accompaniment and never have two talents been wedded together with more tenderness or as 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 returned 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 acknowledge-

ment 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 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 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 worth-the 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 is, "Roses," a beautifully poignant love song made for under-the-table hand-holding.

If you and your gal are plan-

ning 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 evening, 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 "ahhh . . . hahh's," foot-stamping, hill-billy accent and a receptive audience. Four endings on the song added the one-more-once 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.

Hero 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. In the audience was Billy Eckstine, Buddy Greco, Roger Miller, Joe Di Maggio, Lefty O-

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GAYLORD & HOLIDAY bring their dynamic song and comedy spectacular to Harvey's Pavilion for a limited Friday to June 24 engagement. Esquivel, His Orchestra & Singers are appearing "back to back" in Harvey's new double-headliner" spectacular.



LAWRENCE WELK and his Orchestra open in Harrah's Tahoe South Shore Room on June 22, the day after Andy Williams takes his mellow voice from the lake.

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