8-3-1996

Roy Clark

Center for Performing Arts

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.govst.edu/cpa_memorabilia

Recommended Citation
http://opus.govst.edu/cpa_memorabilia/88

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Performing Arts at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.
The Center for Arts and Technology
Governors State University
Richard S. Kordos, Executive Director
presents
Roy Clark
Saturday, August 3, 1996
ROY CLARK

Touring Band

Rodney Lay  Bass
Vernon Sandusky  Lead Guitar
Shelby Eicher  Fiddle
Butch Poe  Drums
Mark Pearman  Fiddle
Richard Kennedy  Keyboard
James Henley  Rhythm Guitar
Jimmy Henley  Banjo
Tanya Lotten  Vocal
Tina Harper  Vocal
Dava Brown  Vocal

Technical Staff

Sid Pierce  Production Manager
Chris Armstrong  Sound Technician
Gary Cochran  Driver
Doyle Dozier  Driver

Roy Clark
A Biography

Country music superstar Roy Clark is a man of so many talents, spanning so many mediums that a reviewer once said of him, “The only critical remark I can make is that Roy’s dancing could possibly improve.”

Clark is a master musician, relying predominately on guitar, 12-string acoustic, banjo and fiddle.

Roy is a noted comedian who writes all his own material, and has been honored by the Country Music Association (CMA) as Comedian of the Year. He records hit songs for the MCA label and he composes string instrumentals. Clark is a much sought-after guest and host on major network and syndicated television shows and specials, far more visible on TV than his contemporaries in the field. And yes, he dances, once in white tie and tails down an elaborate staircase on the “Donny and Marie” show, and with Mitzi Gaynor on one of her CBS specials.

Roy Clark is also a veteran of the silver screen. His debut motion picture, “Matilda,” an Albert S. Ruddy production was released in 1978. The film cast him in the role of the New York State Boxing Commissioner, an ironic twist as Roy was a professional boxer for a time. He won 15 straight bouts in the light-heavyweight division before throwing in the towel for a guitar. He is a pilot, operating from the left front seat of the sleek Mitsubishi prop jet that whisks him from one concert to the next, about 200 annually. Clark is a radio broadcaster (part owner of two Tulsa stations), a photographer, a boat captain and an avid outdoorsman. A baseball fanatic, Roy is a part owner of the Tulsa Drillers, a Texas Rangers farm club. He is also a horse racing enthusiast and owner of thoroughbred racers and an astute businessman as well as a pretty fair golfer.

Roy Clark is also a pioneer. He was one of the very first to establish country as a popular and highly successful attraction along the Las Vegas strip. He now plays the main showrooms of the Frontier and Desert Inn 12 weeks a year. He is the first country music performer ever to be enshrined in the world famous Movieland Wax Museum in Buena Park, California.
And he is also the first country music artist ever to headline his own show in the Soviet Union during a SRO three week tour there in early 1976. He likewise has debuted country music along the French Riviera, the Principality of Monaco, at the Montreux International Jazz Festival and the Brussels Millennium.

Things were not always first class for Roy Linwood Clark, at least not career wise. Like most musicians, he paid his dues working small, smoke filled clubs. He was an opening act for more established artists and sideman for others.

Clark grew up in Meherrin, VA. His family was musically inclined, with his father, uncles and cousins picking and singing at local events. Roy’s mother is a pianist. Father, Hester Clark, taught Roy to pick well enough to win the nation’s Country Music Banjo Championship at age 16, coming back the following year to win again. Part of the prize was a special guest appearance at Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry, which whetted Roy’s appetite for a music career. He was given his first guitar (from Sears) on his 14th birthday, and his mother Lillian Clark recalls that he spent all day in his room practicing.

Awards for Clark’s achievements have been lavish. His awards, which are too numerous to list, include a star on Hollywood Boulevard’s famous Walk of Fame. Of special pride to this outstanding entertainer is the Roy Clark Elementary School in his hometown of Tulsa. Recently, the Tulsa suburb of Skiatook renamed their airport Roy Clark Municipal. He was given the Spirit of Life Award from the City of Hope in Pasadena where the Roy Clark Research Foundation in Medicine has been founded. The latter is due to his various humanitarian endeavors including support of Tulsa’s Children’s Medical Center that receives proceeds from the annual Roy Clark Celebrity Golf Classic.

Extensive television credits include some of the most highly rated prime-time offerings in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Roy’s co-hosting of Hee Haw alone is seen by some 35 million viewers weekly in over 228 markets.

Roy and Barbara Clark have made their home in Tulsa, Oklahoma since January of 1976.