

On Tour



Randy Newman, Universal Amphitheatre, Los Angeles, August 23, 1977

Randy Newman plays the reluctant performer, coming out with an album only every few years and a personal appearance schedule that's at least as erratic. But Newman plays many roles, all of them convincingly enough that one wonders if his hesitation comes from stage fright, lack of productivity, or simple laziness.

Of course, he's become a cult figure.

This fall, Newman begins what is for him, an extensive tour — covering 50 cities. What he'll be singing and playing was previewed last month in Los Angeles.

Newman is an intellectual masquerading as a buffoon; a serious musical scholar, whose scores reflect a sound knowledge of contemporary classical and theatrical music, passing himself off as a somewhat bumbling, well-intentioned amateur.

His songs, all originals, reflect pathos ("I Think It's Going to Rain Today"), hope ("He Gives Us All His Love"), sarcasm ("Short People Got No Reason to Live") and a combination of all ("Davy the Fat Boy"), with an occasional dollop of sardonic kinkiness ("You Can Leave Your Hat On").

Much of his humor, both in his songs and patter inbetween, is so dry that at any given time as many of the crowd are likely to be missing the joke as getting it, and sometimes reading one of Newman's straighter pieces ("Texas Girl at the Funeral of Her Father") as some sort of gag.

Many of the songs performed from Newman's *Good Old Boys* are particularly ambiguous in that respect: is he laughing at the proud "Redneck," or having a sideswipe at their detractors? Either way, it's interesting and presented as a valid piece of music.

For the occasion, Newman performed several songs backed by a 50-piece orchestra conducted by his uncle, Emil, but the pieces he performed solo, backed only by his own piano, came off better; that's the way he'll be travelling.

Is Randy Newman a rock and roller? Years ago, when he started making club appearances, he included two vintage tunes in his set: Fats Domino's "Blue Monday," and Arthur Alexander's "You Better Move On." He performed them knowingly and affectionately. Before too long, though, he discontinued the two songs. Why? "Because everybody in the audience thought that they were my songs, and I didn't want to take anything away from the originals."

Lynne Manor

A COMPACT STEREO WITH THE GUTS TO DO THIS:

	Centrex by Pioneer KH-7766 System	Marantz 2216 Receiver AR 16 Speakers BSR 2320W Record Changer Teac A-100 Tape Deck	Sansui 221 Receiver Bose 301 Speaker BSR 2320W Record Changer Akai CS-702D Tape Deck	Kenwood KR2600 Receiver AR 16 Speakers BSR 2320W Record Changer Teac A-100 Tape Deck
Minimum RMS Power Output Per Channel	12 watts (8 ohms)	16 watts (8 ohms)	8 watts (8 ohms)	15 watts (8 ohms)
Power Band Width	40-30,000 Hz	20-20,000 Hz	40-20,000 Hz	20-20,000 Hz
Total Harmonic Distortion (smaller is better)	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%	0.8%
FM IHF Sensitivity (smaller is better)	1.9 Microvolt 10.7 dBf	2.5 Microvolt 13.2 dBf	2.5 Microvolt 13.2 dBf	2.5 Microvolt 13.2 dBf
FM Stereo Separation (larger is better)	40 dB	38 dB	35 dB	33 dB
FM Capture Ratio (smaller is better)	1.0 dB	3.0 dB	1.5 dB	2.5 dB
FM Selectivity (larger is better)	60 dB	50 dB	60 dB	50 dB
Cassette Tape Deck Tape Frequency Range	Front-loading non-Dolby* CrO ₂ : 40-14,000 Hz Low Noise: 40-12,000 Hz	Dolby* Front-loading CrO ₂ : 30-14,000 Hz Low Noise: 30-11,000 Hz	Dolby* Front-loading CrO ₂ : 40-14,000 Hz Low Noise: 40-13,000 Hz	Dolby* Front-loading CrO ₂ Tape: 30-14,000 Hz Low Noise: 30-11,000 Hz
Speakers	10" 3-way Frequency Range: 45-20,000 Hz	8" 2-way Frequency Range: 50-22,000 Hz	8" 2-way Frequency Range: N/A	8" 2-way Frequency Range: 50-22,000 Hz
Record Changer	Moving Magnet Cartridge with damped cueing and 4-pole motor	Moving Magnet Cartridge with damped cueing and 4-pole motor	Moving Magnet Cartridge with damped cueing and 4-pole motor	Moving Magnet Cartridge with damped cueing and 4-pole motor
Suggested Total Retail Price (Source: 1977 Stereo Review's Stereo Directory & Buying Guide, Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price)	\$429.95	\$719.95	\$651.95	\$669.80

Centrex Stereo Systems by Pioneer compare favorably with these typical audio store component packages. Pioneer products include a two-year limited warranty. Ask for details. Pricing published as of April 1, 1977.
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