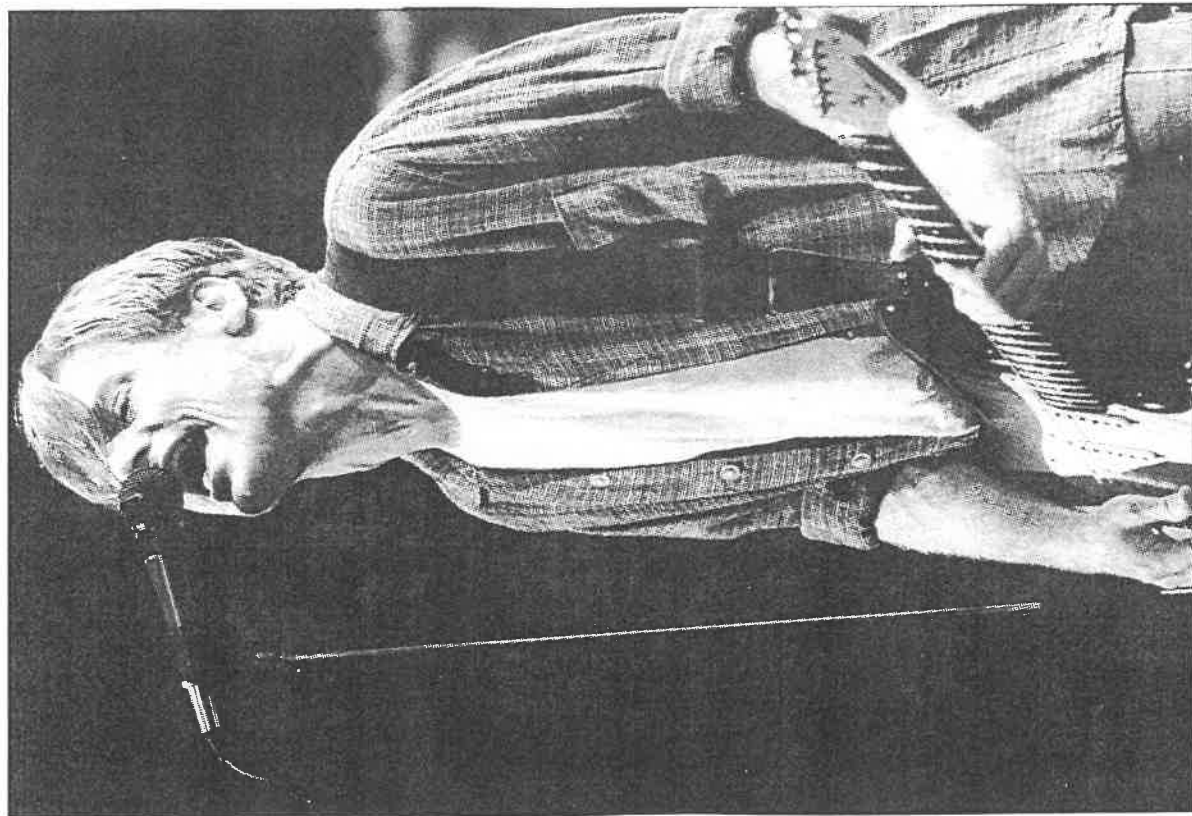




MELVIN GRIER/The Cincinnati Post

Bryan Adams performs at the Shoemaker Center Sunday evening.

Rocker Adams gives seamless concert

By Phyllis Cruze
Post Contributor

Bryan Adams is a straightforward musician.

And if the first night of the tour was any indication, Adams' music comes "Straight from the Heart."

Playing before a crowd of 8,258 enthusiastic fans at the University of Cincinnati's Shoemaker Center, Adams kicked off his "Waking Up the Neighbours" tour in Cincinnati. The first night of a tour generally has some rough spots, but there were none to be found at this performance.

The performance drew fans of all ages, including several families with younger children. The fans were appreciative of the strong, well-mixed set, and Adams was, in return, appreciative of their support.

Most of the credit for a near-flawless performance goes to Adams and his band members Keith Scott on guitar, Dave Taylor on bass, Mickey Curry on drums, and Tommy Mandel on keyboard. Adams and company moved from song to song with little effort.

Concert review

But part of the credit could go to the Shoemaker Center. Cincinnati's newest arena, the Shoe was acoustically tight, well-staffed and ready for this function.

Adams' playlist included his Top 10 hits "Straight From the Heart," "Run To You," "Heaven," "Summer of '69," and the Grammy award-winning "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You."

Opening for Bryan Adams for this tour are relative newcomers The Storm.

Comprised of former Journey members Gregg Rolie on keyboards and lead vocals, Ross Valory on bass, as well as vocalist Kevin Chalfant, Josh Ramos on guitar, and Ron Witsko on drums, their 30-minute set included current singles "I've Got A Lot To Learn About Love" and "Show Me The Way." But they're reminiscent of Journey.

Adams' tour continues Tuesday in Cleveland, Wednesday in Indianapolis and Friday in Pittsburgh.