

# the kent **entertainment** guide

## ***Coryell plays acoustic, electric***

By **SCOTT KRANSTUBER**

Those people who didn't go to the Rathskeller last Saturday night to see Larry Coryell, missed seeing one of the most talented, and innovative guitarists on the jazz fusion scene today.

Larry Coryell took over the stage with his Ovation acoustic guitar.

The man is amazing. With just an acoustic guitar, he held the audience spellbound with his unbelievably fast, yet graceful fingering, plucking and strumming.

**HE PLAYED** many of his own compositions from his last solo guitar effort, *European Impressions*.

A highlight of these was "Rodrigo Reflections," which Coryell called a take-off on the Lord's Prayer. The crowd cheered as he recited his own version of the prayer, including the line, "and lead us not into disco."

Along with these original pieces, Coryell played songs written by other artists. His renditions of Chick Corea's "Spain" and the soothing "Glorielle" by Jimmy Webb both received standing ovations.

### *Review*

"**I DON'T LIKE** to come off like an eclectic maniac," he said after the show. "I try to play things that the audience will recognize and pull them into it from there."

Coryell brought North Star, a local seven-member band who opened the show, back on stage for an electric set. The crowd came to its feet as the group played "The Funky Waltz" by Aiphonse

Mouzon, who teamed with Coryell two years ago for a Ballroom show here.

North Star had opened the show with a combination of original songs as well as reasonably good covers of songs popularized by such fusion artists as Billy Cobham, George Benson and Steely Dan.

**"KEYBOARD"** Keith Chelm, who played electric piano and various synthesizers, saxophonist Steve Wendelken, and trumpeter Dan McCarthy were the strongest members of this rising band.

But this merger of North Star and Coryell was a disappointment as North Star played some of its original tunes featuring only occasional improvisation by Coryell.

The members of North Star were noticeably thrilled at playing with Coryell again, having done a similar show with him last year in Akron's "Nite Club."

**THE BEST** song of the electric set was the encore, an instrumental featuring an impressive duel between Coryell and the three-man horn section. Often, Coryell's hands were a blur as his unbelievably quick fingers struck the strings.

Another crowd pleaser was the Tower of Power song, "What is Hip?" Saxophonist Wendelken gave an impressive solo that even Coryell acknowledged.

Coryell obviously enjoys playing guitar. "I'll probably go back to the motel and play for another couple of hours." He also said he loves "these Ohio audiences." This combination might account for the two and a half hour show.

The show never got dull; the dancing and ovations of the audience attested to that.



**LARRY CORYELL**