

# James Taylor



Photos by Gall Folda

**LARRY KUBERT**  
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Leaving the James Taylor concert last Wednesday night, I couldn't help feeling that perhaps the near sell-out crowd at Pershing Municipal Auditorium hadn't gotten a full evening of entertainment.

It wasn't that the concert was that bad, it just wasn't that good.

**PERHAPS TAYLOR** was beginning to tire of touring. Or perhaps his voice was giving him some problems. He didn't seem to excite the crowd, except on one or two occasions.

Some friends said that I shouldn't expect an exciting "loud" concert from Taylor—it's not his style of music. Agreed.

But, that's really no excuse. I've been to "quiet" concerts before where the performing artist excited the audience with this same "quiet" material. Taylor didn't.

**HE LIFTED THE** audience halfway, but left them stranded in limbo—neither taking them higher or letting them down.

Frequent tuning by Taylor and his back-up men didn't turn me off. In fact, I was happy to see Taylor making an effort to give as good a performance as possible. But I still had that feeling of "ho-hum" mouth at the end of the show.

Opening the first set with "Sweet Baby James," Taylor then moved on to Carol King's "Up on the Roof."

"GREENSLEEVES," "Fire and Rain," "Machine Gun Kelly" and "Carolina In My Mind" were enjoyable. But 45 minutes into the set, Taylor sat back, rolled up his sleeves and dug into a bitching blues number "Steamroller." It was definitely the best song of the set, with the audience responding accordingly.

Overall the second set was better than the first with Taylor doing several less-popular songs, "Soldiers," "One Man Parade" and "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight" along with the popular "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," "Country Road.. and "You've Got a Friend."

But the two standouts in this set seems to be a strange little song called "The Chili Dog Song" and "Knocking' Around the Zoo" in which Taylor established more rapport with the audience.

**TAYLOR WAS GIVEN** a standing ovation at the end of the concert, but I wonder if this hasn't simply become an unconscious standard response to every concert that comes to town.

The Taylor concert was not a bad show. Taylor is not a bad performer. I found myself enjoying the show—BUT not enough.

Some quickie things to remember.

**BLACK SABBATH**, John Mayall, and Sweat Hog will be at Pershing Auditorium Tuesday, at 8 p.m. Tickets are still available.

Lincoln Community Concerts is bringing in The Ramsey Lewis Trio to Pershing Auditorium Wednesday. Season tickets (only \$5.15 for five great concerts) will still be on sale at the door.

At 10 a.m. Monday, poet Diane Wakoski will be in the English department coffee lounge for an informal poetry workshop/discussion. She will present a public reading of her poetry in the Nebraska Union small auditorium at 3:30 p.m. Monday afternoon.

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