David Cassidy excites ‘crowd’

By ANDREW RESCHIE

The War Memorial was alive with the sound that excites the sub-teen culture as David Cassidy gave a vigorous performance before some 2,900 admirers yesterday.

The young star, son of actor Jack Cassidy and a regular on TV’s Partridge Family, sang and gyrated his way back and forth across the prosenium in his well-staged and very demanding recital.

Preceding the actual appearance of Cassidy, his accompanying band performed some jazz-oriented sounds and his choral backup, in the persons of Kim Carnes and Dave Ellington, also offered several numbers. These two young people featured rock ballads within their portion of the program for a warm-up that was distinctively different for this type of concert.

They sang some well-known numbers, such as “Rescue Me,” “Sweet Music,” David Seville’s “Love the One You’re With” and Dylan’s “I Shall Be Released.” They also presented a number Ellington wrote himself, “ Didn’t We Have Ourselves Some Kind of a Summer,” and in total, their segment proved that they were performers of some merit and perhaps a future ahead of them.

Cassidy made his appearance after the usual intermission in a yellow custom-made, form-fitting outfit. Opening with “Lonely So Long,” he demonstrated some instrumental dexterity by accompanying himself on guitar on “Rock Me Baby,” “Brown Eyes” and “I’ll Meet You Half Way” and on piano on several others.

He, of course, featured many of his best-sellers, such as “Doesn’t Somebody Want to Be Wanted,” “It’s One of Those Things,” “I Woke Up in Love This Morning” and “Two Time Loser.”

Turning to music more popular first by others, he offered his renditions of Chico’s “Only the Beginning” and the Association’s “Cherish,” a number that also has brought a certain amount of success to himself.

Cassidy’s performance was a physically demanding combination of singing, dancing, twisting and pulsating to the music. It seemed to drain the emotions from him and resulted in screaming and shouting from the rather disappointingly small audience in attendance.