

# DAVID LIVE!

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mendous vibration of warmth and love, and he just had to say, "You know, you're all such beautiful people!" At that moment, everything seemed to fit together and he stopped being nervous and took charge — and it really showed.

After that he sang "Point Me In The Direction of Albuquerque" and "Doesn't Somebody Want To Be Wanted" and the audience loved it! By now, everybody was on their feet, and the music and excitement was filling the auditorium.

As soon as "I Think I Love You" ended, David ran offstage and jumped into the limousine — which pulled away just in time! We all went back to the hotel, where there was a party in David's honor, and everyone had a wonderful time — mostly, I think, because they caught David's mood! Wes Farrell, David's recording producer, flew in from New York to congratulate him and David also invited Charles Laufer and Ralph Benner, Tiger Beat's Publisher and Editorial Director. He wanted to get their opinions of the concert and, of course, they both thought it was fantastic!

David was absolutely floating, talking about what a fabulous audience he'd had, and how well it had all gone. He left pretty early, though, because he had to rest for the following day, when he was scheduled to do a concert in Portland, Oregon.

It was pouring in Portland. David's throat wasn't in such good shape, so he drank honey and lemon in hot tea throughout the morning and we all watched basketball games on television — just like home! Actually, after the unbelievable excitement of the concert, the slow day, with its grey rain, was good for all of us.

At about four, David decided he wanted to look at the auditorium and see what the acoustics were like, so they could get the sound just right. The hall turned out to be beautiful, and David was

feeling great by the time we went out and ate our steak dinner. He was sure he had another great night in front of him!

But just to be sure (he's a little superstitious) he wore the same clothes he had worn in Seattle, even though he had two beautiful costumes which had never been worn! He paced around backstage again, sipping his tea and worrying — but from the moment he stepped onstage it was another magic night and everything went fantastic!

During the show something happened that David will never forget! As David went into his favorite song "I'll Meet You Halfway," the strangest thing happened. A young girl, eyes shining, ran from the darkness of the audience into the spill of light at the stage's edge, and David, moved by the thrill of the moment, took her hand. She held him tight, and his ring slipped from his finger and into her hand. She looked at it with wonder, and David panicked, because the ring has been handed down in his family for years, but he kept singing. The girl, whose name we never learned, read the look in his eyes, and with tears slipping down her cheeks, she silently handed the ring back up to him.

Out of pure and grateful love, David bent down and kissed her cheek. Instantly there were shrill screams and literally hundreds of girls rushed toward the stage! The girl who briefly had David's ring melted from sight, and we never saw her again. Whoever she was, she has David's undying gratitude!

If anything, David sang *better!* He was watching his throat, and in a way it made him listen to his singing more closely. I think the first concert was a little more enthusiastic, but the second was probably more professional! The kids ate it up, and once again, when David ran offstage, he was speechless from the feeling of love he had experienced!

And it really *was* an experience, one I'll never forget. That whole giant auditorium, thousands of people, all locked together in a magic spell of love and music, throwing their cares away and celebrating long into the night — with David at the center of it!

As we climbed wearily onto the plane the next morning, I asked David how he felt, now that it was over, about his first concert. He looked at me, and I could tell that he was speaking pure truth when he said: "It was the greatest night of my life!"

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