

# MUSIC

## An act of brotherly love

'Partridge' heartthrob calls on wayward sibling to open show

By ROGER CATLIN  
The Hartford Courant

**I**T'S A SITUATION that cries out for Reuben Kinkaid: The agent on "The Partridge Family" would know exactly what to do if every time Keith Partridge went out on a latter-day solo career, his record companies were bought out or went bankrupt.

But David Cassidy's solution is: Just go out and tour anyway.

The still impossibly boyish 1970s TV star and onetime teen idol, now 41, is on his first tour in 15 years.

And as much as he tried to carve an image away from the Keith Partridge character on his "David Cassidy" album, released last fall on the now-defunct Enigma Records, he is bringing back, to open the show, his fictional little brother: self-described "has-been," radio personality and recent police-blotter item Danny Bonaduce.

"It's an exciting thing to happen," Cassidy says over the phone from Los Angeles of his tour, "to know that there's an audience out there, and to want to go back and play songs I haven't sung in 15, 16, 17 years."

The last time songs such as "I Think I Love You," "Doesn't Somebody Want To Be Wanted," "I'll Meet You Halfway" and "Cherish" were sung live, they were echoing in arenas over the screams of frantic preteens.

"I always said I'd never be a nostalgia act. And I turned down a lot of money to do that kind of thing," Cassidy says. "But as a result of stopping at the top — I mean, the last concert I played was for 40,000 people — you're not a joke, you're not sad, you're not pathetic; you leave with integrity. That was always a great chapter in my career. But now, having a presence, and having success today and being this musical persona I am today, I can go out and do the stuff I do today and also do the old stuff — like Paul Simon, like Don Henley, like anybody that's been out



File photos

At left, 1970s TV family The Partridges, and above, singer David Cassidy, now 41 and on a concert tour.

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

David Cassidy will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater. Danny Bonaduce, who played Cassidy's precocious little brother Danny in "The Partridge Family," will open the show with

his stand-up comedy act. Tickets are \$22 and \$19.

To get to the hall, take Interstate 75 north to I-4 West through Tampa. Take Highway 60 across Tampa Bay; turn right on McMullen-Booth Road. For details, call 1-791-7400.

there for 20 years."

But Cassidy's career during the last two decades has been thwarted by record deals that have gone sour. An album that was a hit in London in 1985 never made it to the States because the label was bought out. His warmly received new album, which featured the single "Lying to

Myself," was stopped cold when the record company went out of business.

"It's happened to me twice for the last two records I've made in the last seven years," Cassidy says. "It's been a bit painful. I'd be lying if I said to you I wasn't disappointed. They weren't mortal blows, but that

experience left a real bad taste in my mouth and I thought, I'm not going to do this again."

He sat out after the first disappointment and wrote songs, some of which have turned up here and there; "I'll Never Stop Loving You," which he wrote with his wife, Sue Shifrin, and John Wetton of Asia, was recorded by Cher for her "Love Hurts" album.

Momentum was rolling with last fall's album, he says, until the record company went bankrupt.

"It's a mess," he says. "The music business, I never intended it to be like this."

But he adds, "I could either sit back and be angry and bitter, or I could just look at the fact I did something really positive. So I'm

See CASSIDY, page 7