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Asylum giants fly in

JONI Mitchell and Jackson Browne — whose album and single, "Doctor My Eyes," are currently best-sellers in the States — arrive in Britain this Sunday (30).

They play together on a few selected dates, and Jackson will also make solo appearances.

Another Asylum Records singer / songwriter — like Joni and Jackson — is also visiting Britain for a few dates during the middle of May. He is David Blue. Joni's album, "Blue" was dedicated to David.

Joni and Jackson appear together on Wednesday, May 3, at the Odeon, Manchester, followed by London's Royal Festival Hall — already a sell-out — on May 6. They then fly on for dates in Frankfurt (9), Amsterdam (14) and Paris (16).

Joni tapes a Sounds on Saturday BBC-TV show on May 19 for autumn transmission.

Solo dates for Jackson Browne are Music Workshop, London (May 1), BBC-2 TV's Old Grey Whistle Test (2), and a taped insert for radio's In Concert on May 18. He also appears at the Van Dyke, Plymouth, on May 20. His last appearance in Britain was on the Laura Nyro concert at the Royal Festival Hall just over a year ago.

■ Dates were also finalised this week for the Everly Brothers, who arrive in September. They appear at the City Hall, Newcastle, on September 22, followed by Kelvin Hall, Glasgow (23), Floral Hall, Southport (24), Philharmonic, Liverpool (28), Odeon, Birmingham (29), Free Trade Hall, Manchester (October 1), Winter Gardens, Bournemouth (4) and Royal Festival Hall, London (13).

■ Doors open a Continental tour in Copenhagen today (Thursday). They appear on BBC-TV's Old Grey Whistle Test on May 9, followed by City Hall, Newcastle (10), Kinetic Circus, Birmingham (11) and Reading University (13).

New stars for Lincoln

EXTRA NAMES have been added to the all-star bill for the Great Western Express Festival at Lincoln over the spring Bank Holiday.

American artists Helen Reddy and folk singer Steve Goodman appear on Saturday, May 27; Spencer Davis Group with Sneaky Pete on guitar and Alan Hay on bass, plus The Average White Band, play on Sunday (28), and Jackson Heights and the Sutherland Brothers Band from the States appear on Monday (29).

Another big feature of the festival will be the folk tent. Artists booked for this special marquee include Colin Scot, J. S. D. Band, Bridget St. John, Harvey Andrews, Al Matthews, Anne Briggs, Silvo and Moses, Mick Softley, Boys Of The Lough, Cob, Jonathan Kelly, Hamish Imlach, Gasworks, Derek Brimstone and compere Bill Barclay.

Contrary to rumours, T. Rex are not appearing at the Festival.

MOODIES' BIG SEARCH

MOODY BLUES, whose lead guitarist Justin Hayward is pictured here, celebrated their return to England at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Saturday. Having returned from audiences of 18,000 and more in America, they played to a capacity house of 10,000 at the Pool.

Hard on the heels of the ban on groups at the Royal Albert Hall, the Moody Blues have announced their plan to look for alternative English venues which can cope with rock audiences of ten or twelve thousand. This follows trends in America, where ice rinks, basketball rinks and similar large indoor venues are used for rock concerts.

"A lot of groups are in a position where it costs a lot of money to put a show on and the Albert Hall was the only place where you could bring in a suitable number of people. Now that's gone there's nowhere," said the group's bassist, John Lodge. "The new thing five years ago was the college circuit. The big thing this year has got to be new venues."

Once the Moody Blues have found alternative venues to the 2,000-capacity cinemas they have played in the past, they hope to play in them later in the year.

■ See Caught in the Act, page 22.

