

Concert Productions  
International  
Presents

# JOHNNY WINTER

in concert

at

**Maple Leaf Gardens Concert Bowl**

**Thursday, May 13, at 8:00 p.m.**

**Tickets \$6.60 \$7.70**

Available at: The Bay — Yonge & Bloor, Towne & Countrye, Fairview, Mississauga Square One, Lawrence Plaza, Eglinton Square, Cloverdale, Bramalea, Simpsons — Yorkdale and Downtown, All Eaton's ATO, Salsbergs, A & A Records, Round Records, Moodies, Marmac, Arcade. Out of town locations: All Shoppers Record & Tape Marts.

Or phone-in-charge: The Bay: 964-5781 Simpsons: 861-2333

## Rock review

# Johnny Winter fans hear the real thing

By PETER GODDARD  
Star staff writer

When Johnny Winter finished his Maple Leaf Gardens concert last night he was in that unenviable position of having played better than ever before, but to fewer people than ever before.

It was the essential Winter show, classic in its way. He steamed through tunes like Rock 'n' Roll Hootchie Coo, Bonnie Moronie, and Johnny B. Goode, treating each song like one extended solo, doing everything with a guitar except ask it to stand up and take a bow.

Yet all this was for only 7,000 fans. For many other performers (Joe Cocker last Tuesday night, for one) this would be a healthy audience. But for Winter it represents a dwindling popularity. Four years ago at the Gardens he attracted 18,000 people, yet the following year there were only 14,000 fans. And last year there were an estimated 10,000. The reason for this decline, one suspects, has little to do with his playing, which, even at its most mechanical was always staggeringly virtuosic. It has to do the Winter's role in rock.

When the guitarist arrived in New York in 1969 from his home in Beaumont, Texas, he was billed and promoted as rock's next great soloist. Everything he did was expected to be bigger and better than anything anyone else had ever done. It was a role neither he nor probably anyone else could sustain. To keep the image going he wore glossy costumes and played himself into exhaustion. But all this did was attract the wrong fans for the wrong reasons. So last night he went back to the basics; rock and blues cut to the bare bones, all for those hard-core fans who knew what he was about all along.