



Review

Air Supply with **The Queensland Orchestra** **Brisbane Convention and Exhibition** **Centre, May 2**

AFTER an absence of 30 years, Australian soft rock band Air Supply has returned for concerts in Brisbane, Sydney and Perth. A 1970s phenomenon, through a judicious mixture of romance and rock, Air Supply has been ranked in the top 100 musical acts of all time. Vocalist Russell Hitchcock and guitarist/composer/vocalist Graham Russell are the original Air Supply members. With a touring band of four skilled musicians on keyboards, percussion, lead and bass guitars, Hitchcock and Russell took us through a potpourri of their greatest hits in a slick and professional two-hour show. A well-oiled formula encouraged the audience to clap, wave and sing along. This included a stage-managed walkabout, kissing and hugging fans, while performing a version of *Two Less Lonely People in the World*. Memorable numbers included their hits *Sweet Dreams*, *Even the Nights*, *Just as I am*, *Power of Love*, *The One that You Love*

and *You are my Lady*. They brought the show to a powerful conclusion with an encore of *All Out of*

Help wanted

Vera Moda Tiramisu European Yarn 50g made in Italy. A.G of Corinda. Brenda Fay Sutton is looking for her brother, Grahame Norman Collins separated at infancy 59 years ago. Last known address Greenbank, Queensland. She'd love to fill in the Love, eliciting frenzy from some of the mostly baby-boomer audience. Hitchcock and Russell's voices have held up well and harmonise beautifully. There were some nice moments, including Russell's acoustic version of a new song entitled *Me and the River*. Hitchcock did a faithful version of Harry Nilsson's *Without You*, a song crying out for great orchestral accompaniment, while pianist Frankie Marino treated us to a terrific romantic and jazz solo culminating in a piece from Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. More of this diversity would have been welcome as, disappointingly, this concert gave us very little that was new, with many of their old songs similar. In contrast to the Judith Durham

concert presented by the Queensland Orchestra last year, where quality orchestrations enriched the evening, minimal consideration was given to new orchestration for well-known numbers. There was also little chance for the orchestra to shine or even be heard above the heavily amplified rock instrumentation. Orchestral accompaniment on a sporadic basis merely to add musical fill could have been easily achieved by a CD backing. It is questionable what the value of such involvement is for our state-funded orchestra. There was no artistic merit here for them, wasting a perfect opportunity to explore some synergies between different musical styles that could have added value for artists and audience alike.

missing years. Also anyone knowing Diana Collins please contact Dianne at honeyspring@bigpond.com.au.

Can help

J.H of Bribe Island 3408 7341 can help M.F of Kurrimine Beach with Castlereagh Books.



HARMONY . . . Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock's voices held up well.