

'Caliente' to heat up Koger Center tonight

By KATHY HEBERGER
Staff Writer

The USC Dance Company's fall concert, "Caliente: a Night of Jazz Dance at the Koger," will feature fast-paced music with a Latin flavor at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

"It's very hot, very modern and super cool," student director and advertising senior Dago Gonzalez said. "You'll want to get out of your seats and start dancing."

This fall's concert will be different from all the company's previous performances because it features predominately jazz dancing with the exception of ballet dancing in two numbers. It's also the first student- and faculty-run concert.

Gonzalez says he hopes the jazz dance will interest students who might not otherwise come to the concert. "This is the stuff you see on MTV in Janet Jackson and Paula Abdul's videos," he said. "It involves a lot of movement. The hips and torso are free. It's sexy — within the context of art."

Gonzalez's choreography begins the concert in "Caliente," a work that includes music from Gloria Estefan, and dancers say it lives up to its name, which translates as "hot" in English.

"I love 'Caliente.' It's very... interesting, something you have to experience for yourself," business freshman and dancer Chernise Spruell said. "The concert is very fast-paced and energetic and will definitely get the audience involved."

The fast pace of the concert slows with a ballet USC dance professor and dance company director Susan Anderson choreographed to music from the musical "Phantom of the Opera."

"It's all about dancing in the night," Anderson said of the ballet

piece, which is all on pointe and will feature projected slides of Columbia artist Blue Sky's murals in the background.

The piece "Anikana-O" is a blend of ballet and jazz dance. "The first part of it is strange, but nice, and the second part is more upbeat," Spruell said.

Gonzalez's choreography in "Bilando" and "Mirage" will end the concert.

The concert will also include "In a Percussive Interlude," a work from USC guest artist Jose Meier. Meier is a director at the Alvin Ailey Dance Company in New York.

"He's one of the best in the jazz field. It's great getting to meet people like him," Spruell said.

Dancers audition for positions in the company in the fall and spring. The company currently has 50 members. Twenty will perform in "Caliente."

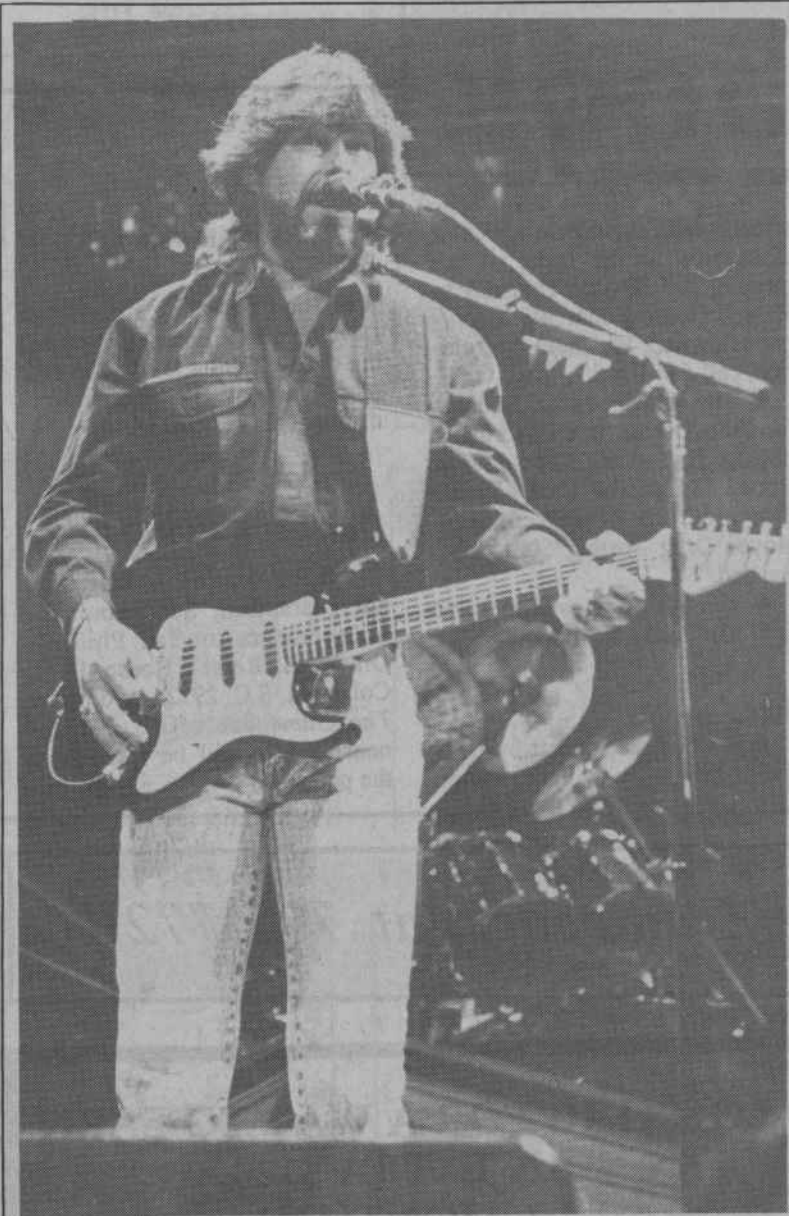
"We have not only dancers but also a lot of people who work backstage and in production. And not everyone performs in each production," Anderson said.

The dancers practice everyday in technique classes to stay in shape.

"You have to be dedicated to dancing. Recently we had an all-day practice, and I was here from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.," early childhood education sophomore Susan Kress said.

Anderson said she's working hard to get a dance major at USC. "They're dancing because they love it, but with no dance major it's hard for them to stay in shape for dancing, hold down jobs and go to school," she said.

The show begins at 8 p.m. at the Koger Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$8 for USC faculty and staff and \$9 for the public.



'Mountain Music'
Alabama's lead singer Randy Owen performs at the Hugo benefit concert at the Coliseum Thursday night.

TEDDY LEPP/The Gamecock

Hugo moves musicians to help Sumter clean up

By SUSAN NESBITT
Staff Writer

The sound of USC students busy clearing debris from the yards of the elderly is music to the ears of the people of hurricane-damaged Sumter.

Students of the USC School of Music have been working with the Council on Aging and a shelter at the Emmanuel Methodist Church in Sumter to help restore the area after Hurricane Hugo.

The relief effort is being coordinated through the four music fraternities. Jennifer Huston of Delta Omicron said her group presented the idea to the others, Phi Mu Alpha, Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi, who agreed to help.

"This has definitely created a sense of brotherhood with the pledges. It has been a really worthwhile project for us," Jim Dickson, a junior finance and management science major who is also vice president of Kappa Kappa Psi, said.

The students' first trip was Oct. 8, and they have gone back every weekend since, Huston said, except this past weekend, when the away football game took many music students out of town with the band.

Groups drive to Sumter at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. each Sunday, so students who want to attend church can do so.

Once in Sumter, Huston said, the students check in with the

coordinator there, who provides maps and addresses of people who still need help.

The Emmanuel shelter helps get equipment for the students to work with, she said. "We don't exactly have rakes in our dorm rooms."

"Mostly what we do is move logs and debris out to the street, clearing it out of people's yards. We just pile it up by the road."

After the day's work, the people at the Emmanuel shelter feed supper to the volunteers. Huston said between 30 and 35 students have been going, but with the away game this weekend, only about five are signed up so far.

Huston said she is glad to be able to participate in the effort. "I just know that there are still a lot of people in the area who need help — elderly people who can't do it themselves."

"There was one lady who had been parking her car in the street ever since the hurricane. We cleared off her driveway and her yard, and she was so thankful just to be able to park her car again. You can see the gratitude in their faces."

"You're absolutely exhausted when you come home. But it's a great feeling because you know you helped someone who really needed it."

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