



Keith Blundell on stage at his benefit on Saturday night.

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Good vibes run rampant at Keith's benefit concert

"Please welcome on stage Keith Blundell," said the compere.

And zooming down the aisle alongside me, in what seemed like a jet-propelled wheelchair, came Keith — and hitting the stage spot on cue.

This was the signal for the capacity audience to rise to their feet and roar their approval, a moment in Saturday night's folk benefit for Keith that will live long in my memory.

This spontaneous burst of warmth and love from the audience and the guest artists crowned, what was in effect, a wonderful trip down memory lane.

It was a four-hour music marathon that jolted me back to the height of the folk music boom of the '60s.

There were all those "names" on stage, some looking a trifle older than I remember, but all working in harmony for a worthwhile cause. And the good vibrations ran rampant that night.

The comperes were Gordon Mulholland, Michael McGovern and Lance James who introduced the many artists and friends who had given so willing to a good cause.

Folk veterans Des and Dawn Lindberg lit the musical flame at 8 pm and it burnt brighter and brighter as the evening wore on.

The programme boasted many surprises, contrasts and moments of high emotion.

Jeremy Taylor, with two classic satirical numbers, including his famous "Ag Pleez Daddy," provided a superb balance to Jill Kirkland's magnificent renditions of "10 000 miles" and "Send in

FOLK ... by PETER FELDMAN

SHOW: Folk 'n Friends (Wits Great Hall)

ARTISTS: Keith Blundell, Des and Dawn Lindberg, Aubrey and Beryl, Thandi Brewer, Jeremy Taylor, Brian Bebbington, Colin Shamley, Penny and Jack, Jill Kirkland, Dave Marks, Ritchie Morris, Ian Lawrence, Lance James, Mara Louw, Cornelia, Gary Bryden, Waldorf String Band and many more

PRODUCERS: Des and Dawn Lindberg

the Clowns". She was backed by John Silver.

Country Daddy Lance James was there singing about "The Door's Always Open" and Mara Louw, in strident form, produced her versions of "Sweet Georgia Brown" and the Lennon classic "Imagine".

Former partners Ritchie Morris and Ian Lawrence teamed up briefly, Fat City moved slickly on "Bad Habits" and the Waldorf String Band produced some toe-tapping energy.

Spanish sparks flew with the Bonegia Spanish Dancers, Thandi Brewer showed clever satire with her "Modern White South African" and Dave Marks put in a rare appearance doing his classic "Master Jack".

But the highpoint was Keith Blundell, in his wheelchair, playing his heart out. He teamed up with Andy Dillon again after 16 years. And then linked with his close-knit family, daughter Julie and Caroline, son Jonny, plus Terence Scarr, who played a mean fiddle.

A night to savour, indeed.