

Bring on 2003

TOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUND AS BANDS GEAR UP FOR THE FIRST QUARTER

The list of tours continues to grow, from SnoCore's club dates to Alabama's Farewell outing.

Our Top Stops Dec. 15-Jan. 15 were a little light in totals in the bigger buildings, though the performing arts centers and theaters reported some good runs. The gross totalled more than \$23 million at 20 venues from 116 shows reported.

Top of the Hot Ticket chart was a non-concert event, the National Finals Rodeo at Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas. Food and drink per caps for that event were a healthy \$6.15, up \$1 from last year, at the Wrangler 2002 National Finals Rodeo, according to John Pucci, venue food and beverage director (*Venues Today* e-mail edition, Jan. 15). The Dec. 6-15 event was attended by 174,330, for a gross of over \$1 million for the in-house concessions operation.

On the milestones list, add Elton John at Bakersfield (Calif.) Centennial Garden. That concert set a record gross at \$644,933 from 10,209 attending. The Jan. 18 concert will make next month's Hot Tickets list. And lest you think this is because Elton never came to Bakersfield, wrong. He last performed there May 21, 1999, in a concert that sold out in less than three hours and, in its day, also set a house record. Nederlander Concerts promoted the Jan. 18 event.

On the new building front, the Convocation Center at the University of Miami reported its first concert, also a late date for these listings. Coldplay drew 5,947 people, a sellout, grossing \$194,764.

On the tour news front, Alabama's "American Farewell Tour" launched with a New Year's Eve concert at the Aladdin Theatre in Las Vegas, a segment of which was broadcast on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve, on ABC Television. (See related story on page 15). It was the largest grossing concert event of 2002 at the Aladdin. With a gross of \$671,625, the show ranked second only to Sting in the history of the 7,000-seat venue. **VI**

TOP STOPS

Based on concert and event grosses from Dec. 15, 2002, to Jan. 15, 2003, reported to *Venues Today*.

Venue, Location	No. of Seats	Total Gross	Total Attendance	Shows
15,001 or More Seats				
1. Thomas and Mack Center Las Vegas, Nev.	19,354	\$7,795,931	174,330	10
2. *First Union Complex Philadelphia	37,750	\$2,481,191	61,429	5
3. KeyArena, Seattle Wash.	17,000	\$682,303	10,291	1
4. Rose Garden Arena Portland, Ore.	20,000	\$326,925	16,751	2
5. Palace of Auburn Hills Auburn Hills, Mich.	20,654	\$272,757	23,416	3

* Includes the First Union Center, 21,000, and the First Union Spectrum, 16,750

10,001-15,000 Seats

1. Hampton Coliseum Hampton, Va.	13,800	\$1,559,173	41,400	3
2. Van Andel Arena Grand Rapids, Mich.	12,500	\$1,315,612	33,007	5
3. First Union Arena Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	10,500	\$1,075,340	18,325	2
4. Spokane Arena Spokane, Wash.	12,500	\$810,333	19,561	2
5. Bryce Jordan Center University Park, Pa.	15,000	\$477,435	9,487	1

5,001-10,000 Seats

1. Lee Civic Center Fort Myers, Fla.	8,000	\$147,366	5,913	1
2. Allen Co. War Memorial Ft. Wayne, Ind.	10,000	\$123,976	3,765	1
3. Columbus Civic Center Columbus, Ga.	10,000	\$106,429	5,394	1
4. Sovereign Bank Arena Trenton, N.J.	10,000	\$103,291	4,893	2
5. Connecticut Expo Theater Hartford, Conn.	6,058	\$78,523	6,058	1

5000 And Less Seats

1. Fox Theatre Atlanta, Ga.	4,600	\$3,438,594	78,688	35
2. Murat Theater Indianapolis, Ind.	2,669	\$1,121,527	17,881	8
3. Boettcher Concert Hall Denver, Colo.	2,634	\$898,211	26,849	17
4. Devos Hall Grand Rapids, Mich.	2,424	\$285,749	9,892	8
5. Temple Hoyne Buell Theater, Denver, Colo.	2,858	\$170,692	4,684	8