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Three-act lineup led by Weir satisfies amphitheater crowd

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HARVEYS LAKE — Tie-dyes. Paisley shirts. Bob Weir.

For the 3,000-plus crowd at the Bud Light Amphitheatre, nothing could be better than this.

The Grateful Dead's Bob Weir and Grammy-award winning bassist Bob Wasserman got a standing ovation when they took the stage, opening with the Grateful Dead's "Walkin' Blues."

Wasserman, with his stand-up electric bass, was a perfect complement to Weir's acoustic guitar and such songs as "Witchcraft" and the classic Al Green song, "Take me to the River."

Michelle Shocked shook the audience with her country/blues-driven approach, playing a tight and entertaining seven-song set.

Shocked mostly sang songs based upon her life experiences,

such as making trouble for the Volunteer Fire Department. She told the story of the game they used to play in her Texas hometown — about tossing matches on the hay and quickly trying to extinguish the fire before the fire department arrived.

Her strong voice, accompanied with fine musicians playing everything from the banjo to the fiddle, was particularly strong on the single "On the Greener Side," and the "Prodigal Daughter," where she led the audience in a chair dance.

Shocked left the stage to a standing ovation.

Opening the night was Bruce Cockburn. Cockburn won the audience with his blues-rooted guitar style and politically correct songs like "Might Trucks of Midnight" from his new "Nothing But A Burning Light" album.

Cockburn's strongest song of the night was his unrecorded cut, "Mr. Nasty."

The mellow crowd was particularly pleased with the crisp sound quality and sharp lighting. As the crowd sat back and listened to their favorite classic songs, they seemed pleased at what they got for their \$22 admission ticket.

WEIR AND WASSERMAN — Rob Wasserman, left, and Bob Weir played to a receptive audience of 3,000 Thursday night at the Bud Light Amphitheatre at Harveys Lake