

BOB HARTMAN INTERVIEW

(Editor's note — The following conversation between Petra guitarist Bob Hartman and Harmony editor Dan Hickling took place March 7th following a Petra concert in Erie, PA. At the conclusion of the concert about a dozen young people came forward to acknowledge receiving Jesus Christ as their personal savior.)

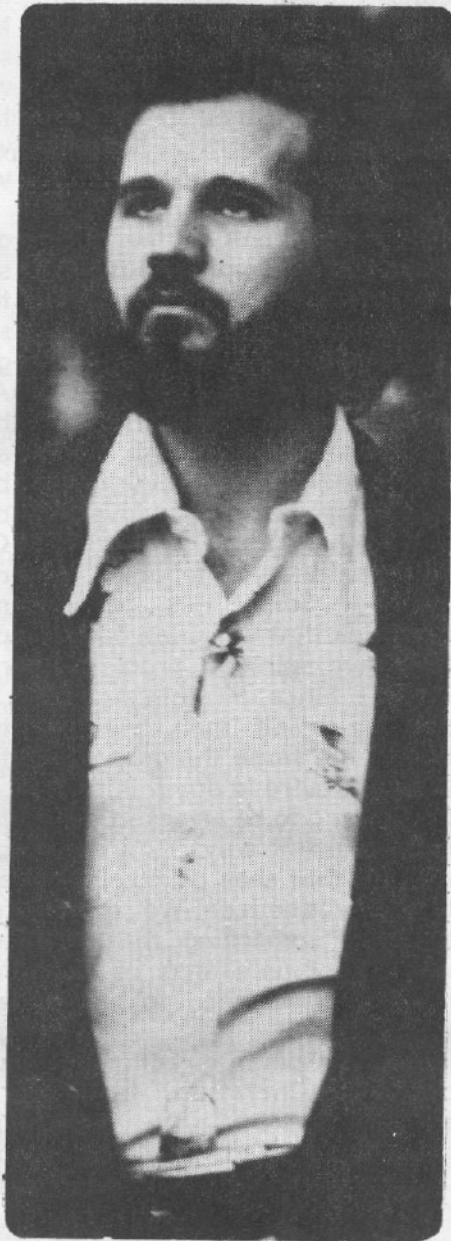
DH — How do you feel when you're on stage? Are you closer to the Lord?

BH — It's a very emotional thing — it's a real stress and you have to be on the ball all the time. With our type of music and with the amount of equipment we have there's a tremendous amount of things that could go wrong. We need to be on our toes at all times, alert of our next move, what we're gonna do next, and how things are going and how people are reacting. It's a constant thing of reacting to the Lord and to the crowd — what we feel is the Lord's will.

As far as being close to the Lord; yes, we experience an anointing a lot of times. Tonight there was a heavy anointing on our music. The Lord anointed our music plus what we said too. I felt awfully close to the Lord when those people came forward - whew - the Spirit really zapped me.

DH — How did you react to being called into the music ministry?

BH — As far as the music goes, the Lord put me through tests with music. For a long time, I didn't have the desire to play as I had before. God had to be first, of course, and He had to know that He was going to be first before He gave any of us a music ministry. He had to put



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us through individual testing. I was in two other bands that broke up. It was the Lord's will that they broke up because they weren't right. I think that's when I finally gave up. I said "Well, I don't believe you want me in music anymore. I'll just lay it on the altar and do what you will." Just about that time He sent Greg (Hough, the other Petra guitarist) and we started fellowshipping together and sharing music. I really felt that God wanted us to work together. We didn't have the slightest idea what we were to do. At first we were doing acoustic stuff. Then God led us all together. We were all going to a Christian school in Ft. Wayne. That's how Petra got together.

DH — About how long ago was this?

BH — This was about 2½ years ago.

DH — What kind of music background do you have?

BH — All of us have a background in rock. I played in a rock band since I was about a freshman in high school. I've been playing guitar for about 12 years and the others about the same time.

DH — Who influences you as a musician?

BH — It's an individual thing for each of us. Joe Walsh influences me — there are several people who do. People have some real good lyrics — they're not Christian but the way they put the lyrics together, I think if it was done right, the same emotions could be stirred up for the Lord. God gives the gift to people, both in and out of the Kingdom, and what they do with that gift is their responsibility. It's talent to use and what I'm concerned