

Show mixes disco, tears

Laura Branigan's dance tunes get fans gyrating, while her sad songs get singer crying.

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Laura Branigan is still best known as a queen of the dance music scene.

On Wednesday afternoon at Cole Muffler Court, the singer, from Brewster, was welcomed with open arms by her screaming fans as she delivered the disco goods in that vein. „Gloria,“ her breakout song from 1982 that rose to No.2 on the Billboard pop charts, had everybody dancing. So did the fast-paced „Spanish Eddie“ and „Self Control.“

Her six-piece band helped rev up the court crowd to a suitable pitch, too. Yet emotional ballads truly let Branigan display a voice that's still able to soar to the sky.

And the act of singing her sad songs moved Branigan to tears.

She had to stop during „Solitaire“ as they rolled down her face.

„Salmons swimming upstream. Salmons swimming upstream,“ she muttered to herself until she was controlled enough to continue singing.

After the next song, a soaring version of the Broadway hit „Don't Cry for Me, Argentina,“ Branigan explained what had just been going on.

„You have to think about something else for a moment. That is if you have to sing,“ she said.

„Come on, how many of you had a broken heart? That's it? Three hands?“ she said.

Then out came a Steinway piano. Branigan sat at it and played and sang the poignant song she called „the first song I taught myself when I had a broken heart.“

„Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?“ was every bit as wrenching as Carole King's famous version.

Branigan's „How Am I Supposed to Live Without You?“ kept up the bittersweet mood, and an encore of the classic „Forever Young“ had her fans waving.

Not that Branigan didn't have a moment of cheer.

„I just want to see the pigs,“ she told the crowd early on. „Do you know where the pigs are? Thataway? And the cows? And the winery?“

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