## Eric Clapton "awesome" in Portland show of his World Tour 2011



Eric Clapton and His Band at their show on Moday, February 28.

by Clark McGaugh

Guitar legend Eric Clapton and His Band played the Rose Garden Arena in Portland Monday night. Los Lobos opened for Clapton and did a good job of warming up the crowd with a fifty minute set.

With Los Lobos' three great quitar players - Cesar Rosas, David Hidalgo and Louie Perez - there was a lot of guitar ac-

tion. One of the high points was the smoking guitar of Perez on Grateful Dead cover the "Bertha". It was also entertaining to see and hear Steve Berlin simultaneously playing both a saxophone and keyboards. Other songs included Jerry Garcia's "Evangeline" and a blended version of their signature song, Richie Valens' "La Bomba" plus "Turn on Your Love Light" which enticed the

crowd to join in.

Clapton was phenomenal. As the only guitarist in the band, he shared the lead and rhythm with veteran musicians Chris Stainton and Tim Carmon on keyboards. It was easy to hear why Clapton is the only guitar player to have been inducted three times into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It was also obvious that he has continued to perfect and expand his capabilities as he adds new arrangements and leads to a variety of songs from his 46 years of recording.

The group's total of 17 songs started with "Key to the Highway", a song Clapton first played with Derek and the Dominos. Clapton's vocals were in fine form, too, as he belted out the lyrics to "Hoochie Coochie Man". The fans really responded to "I Shot the Sheriff". Other favorites included "Layla", "Badge" (really awesome), "Wonderful Tonight" and the set-ending "Cocaine".

After a very short time off stage, they came back to encore with an amazing version of "Crossroads".

eighth stop in a 38 show world tour that started February 11 in the United Arab Emirates, and was followed by shows in Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong,



Clapton shows some of his guitar work during the acoustic portion of his show.



