

GENTLE JESSE HERE FOR TOUR

JESSE WINCHESTER slipped quietly into Australia last week for a three-concert tour taking in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

Although not well-known in Australia he has an enormous following in the USA and Canada where his talents have been compared with Dylan and Joni Mitchell.

The reason for his low-key arrival stems from his emigration to Canada in 1967 — to avoid the draft.

His music is a little hard to classify but his talents have been described thus:

"He sings as he writes, in a gentle but strong voice. He's a relaxed, perfectly paced singer possessing beautiful ballad phrasing."

Listening to one of his albums this week left a very definite impression — one of mellow softness, despite the good funky up tempo numbers.

Winchester's biggest break came when Robbie Robertson, from The Band produced his first album in 1970.

Since then Winchester has emerged from the "underground" cocoon to take his place as one of the leading lights in contemporary music.

But true to character, he is rather nonchalant about his success — he almost appears to make a conscious effort to play it down.

Concert reports from Canada and the US augur well for Australian audiences.

Winchester is apparently one of those rare performers who actually sound better live than on record.

Tour dates are: Adelaide, Sept 15; Melbourne, Sept 16; Sydney Town Hall, Sept 21.

Campus performances are being organised.

★ ★ ★

RAY CHARLES will return to Australia for the first time in a decade for a concert tour in October.



"A supersh
... full of
well-loved
music."