

Corey's Top 10 2012 Concerts

The vagaries of life, work and, perhaps too much of my personal creative time on other “projects” including co-producing a mayoral forum and developing a new website for my fraternal order, the Knights of Pythias (in New York), set back my end of the year review of the best shows I took in during 2012. Last year, the only widely available music I acquired involved some fave artists – Al Kooper (*Black Coffee* and *White Chocolate*), Neil Young (*Americana*) and David Bowie (30th Anniversary edition of *Ziggy Stardust*). Richie Furay's “Live At The Canyon Club” remains a limited edition so not sure you can find a copy – you'll just have to hang with me (and yet it's on my iPhone).

As [last year](#), only one free show made the cut but the quality of those shows (including The Good Rats, [Joan Jett](#), Poco, Dennis DeYoung of Styx/[Lou Gramm](#) of Foreigner/[Bobby Kimball](#) of Toto) compared favorably with ones the required a ticket and sometimes a cover as well.

1) It rained; it was not Woodstock (How could it be? The ground was blacktop.); [fireworks](#) last July 20 at MCU Park supplemented the blaring, precise power melodies of [Squeeze](#). I've seen many a great Squeeze show, I've listened to many others I could not attend; even saw [Difford and Tilbrook](#) and [Glen](#) with his Fluffers. This one was special. And if the original term limits had held four years back, it probably would have meant no such shows at Coney Island. But we do not deal in what ifs here. It happened. And The Romantics as opening act. A show you should be paying big bucks for but my brother's “boss” sure knows how to book 'em! I never tire of [Black Coffee in Bed](#). And I still can hear “[In Quintessence](#)” and [Hourglass](#). If you visit [here](#) you might even be able to listen to the single they unveiled, [Tommy](#) (If you peruse this [site](#), you can download some great shows!). Even without Paul Carrack, the soulful rendition of [Tempted](#) has to move you. YouTube had clips of [Pulling Muscles...](#), [Another Nail...](#), [If I Didn't Love You](#), [Slap & Tickle](#), [Honey Trap](#), and [...Cats](#). I recall The Romantics' [What I Like About You](#) and [Talking In Your Sleep](#) during my single pre-Shelly sort of clubbing days. The only thing was how the weather deterred folks from coming. It might have been the best concert Marty ever “produced” and he has at least one more summer on his “contract”.

2) Last fall I took my friend who likes the boss the best of anyone I know to see Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band. The September 19 MetLife Stadium [concert](#) even included a [turn](#) on drums by Vini Mad Dog Lopez. There were many highlights. The energy, the exhilaration and Bruce recruiting a young girl out of the crowd to sing the chorus on [Waiting On A Sunny Day](#). This “<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHcu7UYbMff>” (Thunder Road/Born To Run/Rosalita) video really captures the energy -- I was glad to be part of the event. What else can you say about the boss in concert. And to say this outdoor stadium show topped the May 2 show I took in at the Pru Center.....

3) If you were lucky in 2013 you might have caught The Rascals “Once Upon a Dream” multi-media experience conceived by Miami Steve and Maureen Van Zandt on [Broadway](#). But more than a few of us caught the show at the refurbished (and more) Capitol Theater in Portchester. I have seen Felix's Rascals but to see the originals in all their glory..... Dino Danelli still can bash those skins. I felt that same exhilaration when the original formation of Poco played Radio City in 1990 opening with Richie Furay's [When It All Began](#) and [A Good Feeling to Know](#); I remarked to Shelly that I could probably go home at that point. This [time](#), it was Eddie Brigati on “It's Wonderful and Felix Cavaliere on “Lonely Too Long (A classic song that - interestingly - Richie later covered very nicely!). Check out “[A Girl Like You](#) from the preceding Saturday. The hits, the obscurities and just a powerful concluding People Got To Be Free. The Rascals are back!

4) The Beach Boys with just Mike Love and Bruce Johnston do not do it for me. It is probably not fair since Poco is down to just one original but I maintain a different connection with that band (Catch them in July at BB Kings Blues Club.) But this reunion tour including Alan Jardine, Brian Wilson and David Marks who preceded the late Carl Wilson on guitar in the earlier formations of this great and innovative band made for something special. The originals were supported by members of both the Love-Johnston touring band and Brian's great band including Jeff Fossett. Highlights for me included Marcella, California Saga, [Wouldn't It Be Nice](#), Brian singing lead on [Sail On Sailor](#). They included a nice [tribute](#) to Carl and Dennis.

5) Shelly told me she used to be a Peter Cetera groupie and there was a Poco connection here as Rusty Young gave pedal steel lessons to Chicago's original bass player. Through that relationship, Poco found Paul Cotton to replace Jim Messina in 1970 and Paul stayed in the band some 40 years (wished he never left but the only constant in band are change. Both Chicago and The Doobies Brothers exemplify that and made great music despite personnel changes (I am partial to Tom Johnston as opposed to the Michael McDonald formations). Certainly you [know what time it is](#) when you experience the bands separately and together. You just have to [Listen To The Music](#) they made on August 18! Just an amazing double [encore](#). What a great [Saturday In The Park!](#)

6) Neil Young got me to check out the Barclays Center a second time; I liked the venue better the first time. More later. However, this I learned a great Met who provides color on broadcasts takes in Neil the way I go see Poco. I was wearing my Poco hoodie and under was my Buffalo Springfield tee. Having seen Neil solo last year, the tour with Crazy Horse offered a nice contract. Neil played loud; Neil played grunge. There were elements of the [Live Rust](#) tour; their was [Cinnamon Girl](#) and [Mr. Soul](#) (I am still smarting missing the Springfield tour.)

7a) (March 14) and 7b) (March 25) [The Allman Brothers Band](#) 2012 Beacon tour always leaves one satisfied and satiated. They played Blue Sky on the 25th! I remain partial to Eat A Peach that that music dominated.

8) Timothy B. Schmit the guy who followed Randy Meisner in Poco and then the Eagles and whose voice improved many a studio cut by such other artists at Steely Dan, played BB Kings last May 29. He did a great version of Poco's What Am I Gonna Do (and provided the story behind that sing). Great versions of [Keep On Tryin'](#) and [I Can't Tell You Why](#).

9) The Who played [Quadrophenia](#) in its entirety and some of my [fave](#) songs from Who's Next at my first foray into the Barclay Center. Roger Daltrey in fine voice. I attended with a new friend from my Gotham Networking group with whom I bonded over the Who.

10) Some artists you just have to see; you need to experience. The ReKooperators featuring [Al Kooper](#) and Jimmy Vivino represent that vibe. The Professor always delivers a nice lesson and I got an introduction to a wonderful club I never checked out before – The Irridium. Check out [Like A Rolling Stone](#) and his Blood Sweat and Tears classic, [Somethin's Goin' On](#).