

Corey's Top 10 2013 Concerts

This year, I promised to post my top 2013 concerts before we turned 2014. To paraphrase a great live Poco tune, *I Guess I Made It*. Interestingly, this past year involved no new music acquisitions. I did find a great recording of a 1975 Dave Mason show I attended at Belmont Park, some cool Free gigs and a nice Renaissance show. All got loaded on my iPhone. I also created my own station on iTunes Radio, aptly titled, *A Good Feelin' to Know*, and for me its regular playing of some great Derek and the Dominoes cuts including *Keep On Growin'*, *Any Day* and *I Looked Away*, among others induce me to continue to sample a station that comes closest to what I got weened on listening to DJ's like the late great Pete Fornatale on WNEW.

Last year, I reached 50 Poco shows, perhaps not a good as some deadheads or Phishes but most will find that impressive, and if you include Richie Furay gigs apart from the band he founded, 67 exceeds my age..... In terms of venues, the Beacon steadily moves near the top of venues and the Nassau Coliseum recently tied the great Bottom Line and the Garden, as well as Central Park as my most frequented venue. Interestingly, five – yes 5 – free shows made the top ten list, including for produced by Marty so the outgoing BP shortly exited in style.

1a) (November 12) 1b) (November 13) 1c) (November 14). Growing up, I recall multiple spins on my old victrola pre-stereo turntable of some great tunes on 45s by *Creedence Clearwater Revival*, including my fave all-time song, *Up Around The Bend*, and classics A and B side including *Bad Moon Rising/Lodi Fortunate Son/ Down on The Corner* and *Travelin' Band/ Who'll Stop The Rain* (The only other band with consistent A and B side hits – well you know – The Beatles.). Creedence really got in LPs and *Bayou Country*, *Green River* and *Cosmo's Factory* certainly include some great “deep cuts. Creedence's leader, lead vocalist, lead guitarist and songwriter John Fogerty played three three shows at the Beacon on successive Mid-November nights. In discussing professional “opportunities” in the new year with a number of friends I noted how some prior positions and involvements caused me to miss several of John's show as well as the unlikelihood that I might be able to enjoy three shows on successive nights. Shelly queried why I needed to attend each night; I made clear the need to “make up for time lost.” Well I did! John played *Bayou Country* on night one, *Cosmo* on night two and reprise both on the final eve. First night highlights included [Travelin' Band](#), an uptempo Lodi (version on the new “Wrote A Song for Everyone”), [Mystic Highway](#) (a new song which is quickly becoming a fave and the best ever version of my fave *Up Around The Bend*. Second night was classic John and you can enjoy the finale, [Fortunate Son](#), and encores: [Bad Moon Rising](#) and [Proud Mary](#). From his solo days, he played [Almost Saturday Night](#) on the first night and of course that baseball classic [Centerfield](#) each night. From the last night, check out [Down On The Corner](#) and [Midnight Special](#).

2) The Richie Furay Band rocked B.B. King on the eve of last summer, June 17. For me always the greatest singer in the rock pantheon, always a smile on my face hearing his tunes live in person or on my iPhone. The show started with his *Souther-Hillman-Furay Band* hit, *Fallin' In Love*, which really sets the tone for the evening. The show stopper from the DeLIVERin' LP, *C'mon*, followed. A great version of *Crazy Eyes*, Richie's song about country rocker Gram Parsons (who introduced Richie to the first Byrds LP thus inducing Richie to re-connect with Stephen Stills....) that Poco NEVER played in concert (listen to the original recording and you can understand how difficult it was to recreate it in concert) highlighted the show. Richie covered songs from almost his entire catalogue from the *Buffalo Springfield* tunes, Stills' *Go And Say Goodbye* and his *Kind Woman* (written for his wife Nancy) and *Sad Memory to You Are The One* and *Just For Me And You* from Poco's *From The Inside* LP. He played a rousing *Wake Up My Soul* from his devotional CD, *In My Father's House* (he became a pastor in the early 1980s). *Calling Out Your Name* represented his great recent studio CD, *The Heartbeat of Love* (Check it out!). The show featured two new songs, including a rocking homage to his wife *Still Fine (After All These Years)*. Of course he closed with my fave Poco and Richie song, *A Good Feelin' To Know*. Even more special to attend a concert where so many meaningful relationship songs get performed with my own special partner of some 29 years.

3) Last year I [noted](#) Shelly was a groupie of Chicago. “Her” band an amazing concert on a hot August night in Coney Island. August 21. It was a Bearak brothers night out. The band named for cousin Barry's hometown soared. Highlights for me included the encore, *25 or 6 to 4*, *Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is*, *Make me Smile*, *Saturday in The Park*, *Beginnings* and the best ever Chicago cover of The Spencer Davis Group's *I'm A Man*. Chicago rocked throughout. The horn players probably stole the show for me. Marty closed out his series with a really great show, surpassed only by Squeeze the prior summer.

4) Lynyrd Skynyrd had it share of misfortune. A plain crash can do that. But a younger brother picked up for his deceased sibling and a barrage of guitars made famous by these southern rockers demonstrated their greatness July 18 in Coney Island. They play everything you knew from *What's Your Name*, *Call Me The Breeze*, *Gimme Three Steps* and closed with *Sweet Home Alabama*. No surprise on the encore, *Freebird*.

5) Never expected a suburban park concert would make the cut but Burton Cummings certainly recalled the power of his old band (The Guess Who) July 27 at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa. He opened with *No Sugar Tonight*. The Guess Who had more hits than I even recalled. Not just *American Woman* and its B side, *Undun*, but *These Eyes*, *Laughing*, *No Time* and *Hand Me Down World*. He did his solo hit, *Stand Tall*. The encore including my fave, *Share The Land* (kind of figures knowing my political bent). All I can say do not avoid free shows at unlikely venues; this was a true gem.

6) Never know why but more often than not my concert season skips January with notable exception. This February 7 Al Kooper birthday show at B.B. King included a tight band featuring Jimmy Vivino, Jesse Williams (bass), Mark The Sheriff Texeira (drums) and guest vocalist Freddy Henry Bliffert. Bliffert channeled Otis Redding on In The Midnight Hour and Joe Cocker on Unchain My Heart. It seemed Al was paying homage to Muscle Shoals and soul this evening with songs such as Stand By Me. Of course the Blue Project classic, Flute Thing (You heard it even if you do not know the name; trust me.) Always an innovator, great versions of the Stones' You Can't Always Get What You Want (Al played the French Horn on the original) and Donovan's Season of the Witch that he covered on Supersession. Al also serves a new artist filter for me. Recommend you also subscribe to his weekly emails sharing music he discovers, including some periodic missed gems from the early days.

7a) (March 1) and 7b) (March 13) As with last year, The Allman Brothers Band never disappoints during their Beacon runs. I always get a rush when they cover Derek and the Dominos; this time the bluesy *Key To The Highway* on opening night; that same eve featured *Aint Wasting Time No More*, one of my faves from *Eat A Peach*. Of course there was *Mountain Jam* and *One Way Out* as the encore. On the 13th guest vocalist Alecia Chakour and the Juke Horns really took *Soulshine* and The Band's *The Weight* to a higher level.

8) Poco underwent a personnel change again two years ago. The new lineup demonstrated the band still merits touring August 4. In retrospect, I am glad got to this show because it could very well be the last show I see of this great band; founder Rusty Young announced this past fall that he no longer plans to take the and out. A final show could very well take place in February 2014 in South Florida. Always re-known for great musicianship and soaring harmonies, the band Richie Furay founded but ceased fronting more than three decades ago rocked with a special energy at the City Winery. For me a special highlight was the instrumental from the Pickin Up The Pieces LP, *Grand Junction* which my daughter Marisa appropriated as the “name” for our home on FourSquare. Wonderful version of Jack Sundrud's Hard County with (Jack on guitar, Michael Webb on accordion and Rusty on Mandolin and lap steel. George Lawrence kept a steady beat throughout.

9) The Go-Gos just exhibited joy and really seemed to enjoy playing together August 1, at Coney Island. *Vacation*, Stones' *Paint It Black*, *Our Lips Are Sealed*, *We Go The Beat* and wonderful covers of Kiss' *Rock & Roll All Night* and the Ramones' *I Wanna be Sedated*.

10) Huey Lewis & the News rocked Coney Island August 14. It was a night eve for a “date night” and Huey and the boys delivered from *Heart & Soul* to *I Want A New Drug* to the *Power of Love* to *Workin' for a Livin'*.