

Corey's Top 10 2014 Concerts

As 2014 comes to a close I post my top concerts for the year about to end. *I Guess I Made It*, (borrowing the great Poco tune title) barely. Unlike the past year I did get one nice CD, *Belly of the Beast* (more on that later) and I finally got around to digitizing my *Magical Mystery Tour* LP into iTunes. I continue to enjoy my self-created iTunes Radio station, aptly titled, *A Good Feelin' To Know*. I continue to program as it plays deep cuts that I would only hear on the WNEW_FM 102.7 station that helped me finetune my musical tastes (Thank you Mr. Fornatale.). Interestingly, family visitations hindered any show close to Poco or Richie Furay this year. 2015 perhaps?

1) I can certainly recall some great multi-acts shows but this year included some the best. Going back to the two 1976 [Stills-Young Band](#) shows opened by Poco preceding by a late winter '76 show that had Peter Frampton opening for the Faces, John Sebastian preceding "Fab Four" Poco then Loggins & Messina, and then The Outlaws opening followed by Poco and The Doobies Brothers, and finally Hendrix opening for The Monkees in 1967, I just cannot think of shows where the results of the pairing so matched the promise. It starts with [Jackson Browne](#) OPENING for [John Fogerty](#) at Jones Beach. Jackson mixed faves and deep cuts. My highlight was *Runnin' On Empty*. Interestingly for those who recall his original steel flavored version, Jackson arranged *Take It Easy* so that if Glenn Frey jumped out, he'd not miss a beat. John Fogerty played much of the great Creedence catalogue including my all time fave, *Up Around The Bend*, but the solo materials shows the man continues to deliver. If top 40 radio really ruled, [Mystic Highway](#) would just dominate airplay.

2-3) Two very close friends (to each other) separately joined me in March and October for two [Allman Brothers Band](#) concerts at the Beacon. I recall being asked by the attorney why I invited the Dr. in March and I explained I was the invitee; the attorney invited me in October. Both are really great souls. The October show was a traditional show, in that no one guested. Rather fitting for the second to last show they'd ever play. And the encore, *No One To Run With*, seemed rather fitting.

4) There was no [Squeeze](#) concert for 2014. But I (actually we, since being a Saturday eve, Shelly attended with me and even [posted](#) our attendance to Facebook) got to enjoy that great band's music live at the intimate Irridium; its primary vocalist and lead guitarist [Glenn Tilbrook](#) grace the [stage](#) with just his guitar. He played the songs he wrote with Squeeze-mate Chris Difford and some great solo tunes too. We not only sang along but the background vocal parts to *Black Coffee In Bed* (my all-time fave Squeeze tune) and *Tempted*. It was like a lovefest. Glenn engages the audience so well in such settings. No surprise if you view the videos available at a [Packet of Three](#). A great voice singing interesting lyrics; excellent guitar work. And for this show the best company possible, except that....

5) Last spring Marisa was in for a wedding and of course we made plans to catch a concert, and this time Mom joined us. So both important gals in my life joined me at [Al Kooper](#)'s annual "residency" at B.B. Kings. My favorite Kooper song was written for a movie, *The Landlord*, that few recall. On new year's day 2014 I told friends it should've been part of the Mayor de Blasio inaugural "New Day" playlist. With its chorus, it's a brand new day, a brand new way...." and Al opened his set with the song, walking among the audience as he sang. He need not have done anything else at that point. He covered songs from the best *Blood Sweat & Tears* LP, "A Child Is The Father To The Man," including their great cover of Randy Newman's *Just One Smile*. The set including rousing versions of Dylan's *Highway 61* and [Like A Rolling Stone](#) (Al played the organ on the original.). There were [cuts](#) from Super Session and The Blues Project. And always a bit of history and Al tells some stories. An special guest Mieka Pauley shined including on this [one](#). He closed with the usual rousing Stones class on which he played French Horn, [You Can't Always Get What You Want](#).

6) The other great 2014 double bill, Peter Frampton and The Doobie Brothers. The Doobies appear very tough as opening acts to great British guitar bands. They were a tough act to follow a few ago opening for Bad Company; no different this summer. Got no complaints as I really enjoy the band with Tom Johnston back in the fold. They really rock and what better encore than *China Grove* followed by *Listen To The Music*. Peter Frampton who headlined exemplifies great musicianship. I really missed some deep cuts covered on the Frampton Comes Alive anniversary tour. *Doobie Wah* was a highlight for me.

7) [Burton Cummings](#) fronted the great Canadian band, The Guess Who, at another concert I attended with Shelly; this time at the City Winery, one of the more intimate settings and a place you need to enjoy a nice concert. As with Tilbrook, it was just Burton and his keyboard. As a result other than a brief explanatory tease, there was no *American Woman*, but nice versions of *No Sugar Tonight*, *Laughing* and its B-side [Undun](#), [These Eyes](#), [Stand Tall](#), [No Time](#), and my fave *Share The Land*, as the encore. And as befits the setting, stories about these and the other songs and the band members, including Randy Bachman.

8) I recall Shelly giving me hell over this concert which I purchased the winter before. We were going with Abbe and Ira with whom we saw the Frampton-Doobies show touted above and #9 below. [Billy Joel](#) may be the Garden's best Franchise unless the Rangers capture the cup. Shelly kept harping on some PBS special where she found Billy out of voice in her view. Funny what an August visit to MSG does; Mrs. B. came away raving about the show. When you've seen someone at smaller settings including your university (front row) and My Father's Place in Roslyn, you always have a special place for the performer. And for whatever reason, this was the first time since those two shows for me to see Billy. I enjoyed the music; cannot explain the reason but glad we caught this one. Great songs, playing, singing, energy. *Piano Man* was a highlight for me. And always enjoy how he so nicely covers others; this time ACDC and the Spoonful.

9) I did not expect seats in the front row when we arrived at the Eddie Money concert at Eisenhower Park. It was a nice extra at an energetic show. Of course most of the people in my location probably did not enjoy the show the way I did (and this likely would apply unless the performer was like [Steve & Eydie](#)). You forget just how many hits the guy has until you realize just about every song in the set was a hit, not just the song use in some commercial these days. The highlight was *Take Me Home* Tonight with his daughter Jesse singing the Ronnie Spector part.

10) Many miss and most including me never got to see Janis Joplin in concert. Well Mary Bridget Davies who sang as Janis in two musicals and even toured with Jefferson Starship singing the Grace Slick parts, belted out great covers of Janis (including *Move Over*, *Ball & Chain*, *Summertime*, and *Half Moon*) Etta James (*I'd Rather Go Blind* and *Tough As Nails*) and Aretha (*Tonight I Sing The Blues*), The Band (*Ophelia*), Amy Winehouse (*Rehab*), and Dr John (*Right Place...Wrong Time*). She did a great version of Dave Mason Traffic tune made classic by Joe Cocker, *Feelin' Alright*.

Honorable mention includes the Gotham Battle of the Bands which including performance by some promises young bands including [Rake](#) who showed their growth in a summer gig at my friend Bill Skody's [Cafe Wha?](#) And [The Montauk Project](#) who placed second and favored me with a copy of their CD, *Belly of the Beast*.