Corey's Top 10 2024 Concerts

In 2024, my wife and daughter attended one concert with me, each attended four more sans the other, and one I attended with three friends. What I found really difficult throughout involved settling on one concert as the best of the bunch. All I found special; some sets were longer but recall remarking to my daughter after each show we attended how difficult it'd be to specify the best show(s). I know I described the 2023 shows difficult to rank but nine shows involving 13 performers (some multiple shows) just left me smiling and then some. While I only comment on nine concerts, the multiple performers at several shows qualify as more than 10 overall.

Rather than rank the concerts, I report on them in chronological order.

Neil Young and his most current iteration of Crazy Horse played Forest Hills Stadium, May 14 and 15. I attended the Tuesday, May 14 concert with friends Fred, Paul and Rob. I <u>blogged</u> about the experience and you can enjoy the full concert on <u>YouTube</u>. I enjoyed opportunities to see Neil solo, with his buddy, Stephen Stills, with CSNY and Crazy Horse and Promise of the Real. I enjoyed each "version" of Neil. Maybe it was the venue; I saw Jimi Hendrix open for The Monkees and later Creedence Clearwater Revival at this this storied venue. I felt a certain magic that evening.

As I <u>blogged</u>, I was not able to see **The Rolling Stones** for almost five decades. I won a lottery in 1975; this time I found securing the ticket less stressful but much more costly. It was also my best overall experience involving any events – including football – at the Meadowlands. This May 23 show was powerful and I left happy I opted to attend. Enjoy the entire performance on <u>YouTube</u>.

The **Jim Messina** concert August 3 at SONY Hall was intended for the year before but illness delayed it. Sitting just off the stage Marisa and I experience an exemplary performance of material from Jim's time performing in Buffalo Springfield, Poco, Loggins and Messina and as a solo artist. "Be Free" is my fave L&M tune and I especially enjoyed it that evening. Read more about it <u>here</u>.

The next eve (August 4) on the way to two-day drive a Supreme Pythian Convention in Roanoke, Virginia, Shelly permitted me to schedule a stop-over in northern Virginia to attend a double-bill featuring **The Doobie Brothers** and **Steve Winwood**. Either act is worth seeing alone. I was particularly interested in seeing Winwood who wrote some of my all-time fave tunes, "Empty Pages" and "Glad", with which he opened the show. The same double bill was scheduled later that week at Madison Square Garden while we were on convention so I appreciated Shelly agreeing to to this route to Roanoke. View the set lists here.

Last summer I may have attended my last **Richie Furay** concert. As I shared in a Gotham <u>commentary</u>, Richie who turned 80 last May, no longer plans to regularly perform. This farewell show of sorts was memorable and spanned his career with Buffalo Springfield, Poco, Souther Hillman Furay Band and as a solo artist. I enjoyed "Stand Your Guard" a staple from his early solo years that made it back on set lists last year.

With our friends Eric and Jarmine we traveled to Mohegan Sun to see **Squeeze** and **Boy George.** We built a weekend around it and the double bill was the climax. Squeeze is one of my all-time faves and the reason for the plans. Marisa and I once traveled to the UK to see them at Royal Albert Hall. Boy George was a real treat. For whatever reason <u>Squeeze</u> opened the concert. It was a different experience to see them again two nights later at <u>Summerstage</u>; Marisa joined her mom and dad at this

outdoor venue within Central Park. Squeeze closed the show and the encore combined my fave "Black Coffee in Bed" with Boy George's cover of T-Rex classic "Get It On (Bang A Gong)."

Jon Anderson had not performed with Yes in sometime and I was intrigued to see him when the opportunity presented itself September 19 at The Capitol Theatre. The concert was billed "YES Epics Classics & More featuring Jon Anderson and The Band Geeks" and as a bonus, from this commentator's point of view, **Carl Palmer's ELP Legacy** opened. The concert channeled my memory of seeing Yes and ELP live in the 70s, albeit at larger venues. The intimate experience in Portchester made the evening all the more special.

Indeed after Marisa and I returned there to see **The Doobie Brothers** September 30, I decided it is now my preferred concert venue. I <u>declared</u> that in my concert review. When you get to experience a band that plays amphitheaters and arenas in an intimate theater just seize that moment – It's all I need to share!