

Corey's Top 10 2011 Concerts

Others devote top ten lists to Albums; unfortunately I do not believe I bought even 10 new Albums this year. I did purchase some excellent new issues such as [Pandemonium Ensues](#) by [Glenn Tilbrook](#) (think [Squeeze](#)) and the [Fluffers](#), and I burned some great LPs I own so I can play them on my iPhone or MacBook Pro (and maybe on a car CD player). That has not stopped me from attending some really great concerts. Some were even free. More than a few not. No doubt some other great concerts occurred. Some I missed (such as the great Buffalo Springfield reunion shows – find some great clips on [YouTube](#) and [recordings](#) of several of the shows may be in circulation; hopefully some will get released—they sounded that great); some I care not too much about missing. But limiting myself to shows I attended, not a bad overall list and not so easy to decide which make the top ten. It worked out this year that I attended no stadium show such as last year's phenomenal [Eagles concert](#) at the new Meadowlands. I prefer a smaller venue anyway. And anytime I am in the area, I find myself lamenting the loss of [The Bottom Line](#) (also the site of my first date with Rachelle).

2011 offered some really great shows and included some long-time faves and blasts from the past who sounded just as fresh and exuberant.

Though separate shows over two night, I offer [John Fogerty's](#) Beacon Theatre Shows, Nov. 17 and 18 as 1a and 1b. He plays the entire [Cosmo's Factory](#) with my fave [Creedence Clearwater Revival](#) tune, [Up Around The Bend](#) on the [17th](#). Fogerty's fave, and probably my fave, CCR LP, [Green River](#), got the call the next [eve](#).

2-At the Beacon Theatre on June 17, [Peter Frampton](#) performed the [35th Anniversary Frampton Comes Alive](#) in its entirety including some great songs I always found missing from the original [LP](#). A [25th Anniversary CD](#) subsequently included those deletions. As a result of being left off, those songs, always great live, got left off most post FCA setlists. Hearing the concert replayed live in the original song order (not the order on the best-selling double LP set) and with the same exuberance and on improved sound system made it special; yeah you miss the late Bob Mayo on keyboards, but Frampton sans most of his hair (recall his long strands back in the day), played and sang great. Seeing and hearing the Peter play the first notes and than the first solo of [Something's Happening](#) brought back memories of front row at Queens College more than 35 years ago (thanks Tibbs!). A true highlight was [Nowhere's Too Far \(For My Baby\)](#), one of two songs left off FCA. He plays NYC and LI in February. Do not miss it.

3-So if you can't get Buffalo Springfield, at least you get a taste with the man front and center between Stephen Stills and Neil Young when they toured. You would never know Rock and Roll Hall of Famer [Richie Furay](#) was under the weather when he played November 11 at B.B. King Blues Club. His set included songs of his and Neil's he sang with the Herd and some of his best work with Poco, [Souther-Hillman-Furay Band](#), and as solo artist. Always special to hear him sing of his Poco classic, [A Good Feelin' to Know](#), but to hear live a great arrangement of [Crazy Eyes](#) – his ode to the late [Gram Parsons](#) from his last LP with what most view the best formation of Poco, made for a truly special eve. Kudos to musician extraordinaire and Richie's collaborator, [Scott Sellen](#) who played keys, banjo, slide and guitar and made this arrangement work. I still pine for a Springfield show in the northeast and maybe after Neil finishes his autobiography, we'll see – but as with the Springfield shows, Richie opened with Neil's [On The Way Home](#) and his version of Stills' great [Go And Say Goodbye](#). Whether or not Springfield reforms again, catch [Richie](#) if you can.

4-I caught [Neil Young](#) totally solo, April 24 at Avery Fisher Hall. Just Neil on guitar, piano, occasionally on harmonica. Just powerful, even on songs that you would prefer seeing with a full band. Think [Down By The River](#) and [Cortez The Killer](#). Beautiful renditions of [I Believe In You](#) and [Tell Me Why](#).

5-In the Rock Hall as a member of [Traffic](#) – most probably know [Joe Cocker's](#) [version](#) of [Dave Mason's](#) Traffic classic, [Feelin' Alright](#), not that Mason penned it. The July 16 free show – kudos to Oyster Bay Town, demonstrates what a great artist and performer Dave continues to be. A great band including Gerald Johnson (bass), Johnne Sambataro (guitar) opened with [Feelin' Alright](#) and grooved with various Traffic classics including [and 40,000 Headmen](#) and great tunes from certainly one of the 100 greatest LPs of all time, Dave's solo album, [Alone Together: Shouldn't Have Took More Than You Gave](#), [Look At Me Look At Me](#), [World In Changes](#) and [Only You Know And I Know](#).

6-March 18, an evening with the great jam and improvisational band, the [Allman Brothers Band](#), part of their annual NYC run, usually and this time at The Beacon Theatre, featured one of the best versions I recall of the [Donovan Leitch](#)-inspired [Mountain Jam](#). Just great playing of covers (Dylan's [It Takes A Lot To Laugh, It Takes A Train To Cry](#)) and Allman originals ([In Memory Of Elizabeth Reed](#), [Come And Go Blues](#)).

7-I know many rave about musicals such as Rock of Ages and Jersey Boys but [The Monkees Reunion](#) featuring Mickey Dolenz, David Jones and Peter Tork June 16, also at The Beacon, recalled for me when I caught [Leader of the Park](#) off Broadway at [The Bottom Line](#) with Shelly. As much as I enjoyed a great concert, I felt like I attended a Broadway show but with originals playing themselves. No surprise as Mickey and Davey perform in many a stage show. The backing band distinguished themselves and the songs penned by [Neil Diamond](#), [Goffin-King](#) and [Boyce-Hart](#) still sound fresh. A special treat was the songs from 1968's [Head](#). It was an experience.

8-I miss The Bottom Line and B.B. King's just lacks the same feel. [Charlie's Casbah](#) – actually the home of Dorothy & Charlie Wade – comes closest these days. [Idlewheel](#) featuring [Poco's](#) longtime current bassist/co-lead vocalist [Jack Sundrud](#) and his song-writing partner [Craig Bickhardt](#) played a house concert at the [Wades](#) on February 5. [Hard County](#) should be the theme song for Farm Aid. [Stand My Ground](#) – an ode to Rosa Parks I used in a [commentary](#) (find its lyrics on page 2) elsewhere were among the highlights. Unheralded [Tom Hampton](#) excels as always on various guitars.

9-I started 2011 January 7 with [Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes](#) at the High Line Ballroom. I still recall the great 1978 New Year's concert at the Capitol Theatre in NJ. It's the energy, the power, the mix of horns, keys and guitars. He even played his take on songs Miami Steve wrote and played during his sans Bruce [Little Steven and the Disciples of Soul](#) dalliance ([Forever](#)). [I Played The Fool](#), [Talk To Me](#) and [This Time It's For Real](#), still resonate.

10-For me summer ended on a chilly eve September 17 at Eisenhower Park made warm by [Beach Boy Alan Jardine & The Endless Summer Band](#). Alan's sons credibly covered for Wilson brothers Carl and Brian and cousin Mike Love. Highlights included [Sail On Sailor](#) (vocal drummer Bobby Figueroa), [California Saga](#) and [Help Me Rhonda](#) (Alan on lead vocals).

Honorable mentions: [Herman's Hermits](#) featuring [Peter Noone](#); [Roger Daltrey](#), [Mark Farner](#), etc. [Rock & Rock Fantasy Camp](#); [John Fogerty](#) [Hard Rock Cafe Times Square – CBS Thanksgiving Taping](#); [The Monkees Reunion](#) at [Coney Island](#); Cornell Dupree Benefit featuring [Joe Cocker](#), [Dr. John](#), Tito Puente; and [Blood, Sweat & Tears](#).