

THE TWENTY GREATEST MUSIC CONCERTS I'VE EVER SEEN

Whew, I'm done. Let me remind everyone how this worked. I would go through my Ipod in that weird Ipod alphabetical order and when I would come upon an artist that I have seen live, I would replay that concert in my head. (BTW, since this segment started I no longer even have an ipod. All my music is on my laptop and phone now.) The number you see at the end of the concert description is the number of times I have seen that artist live. If it was multiple times, I would do my best to describe the one concert that I considered to be their best. If no number appears, it means I only saw that artist once.

*Mind you, I have seen many artists live that I do not have a song by on my Ipod. That artist is not represented here. So although the final number of concerts I have seen came to 828 concerts (wow, 828!), the number is actually higher. And there are "bar" bands and artists (like LeCompt and Sam Butera, for example) where I have seen them perform hundreds of sets, but I counted those as "one," although I have seen Lecompt in "concert" also. Any show you see with the four stars (****) means they came damn close to being one of the Top Twenty, but they fell just short.*

So here's the Twenty. Enjoy and thanks so much for all of your input. And don't sue me if I have a date wrong here and there.

I-Pod Alphabetical Order...

1. **ALICE COOPER** Spectrum. January 15, 1972
2. **BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN** Spectrum... September 11, 1984
3. **CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY & SANTANA & YOUNGBLOODS & CANNED HEAT** Convention Hall November 1, 1969
4. **DAVID BOWIE** Spectrum... July 18, 1983
5. **ELVIS COSTELLO & SQUEEZE** Tower... Jan. 29th 1981
6. **FRANK SINATRA** Resorts... May 23, 1980
7. **GENESIS** Tower... March 10, 1973
8. **JAMES BROWN** Spectrum... Summer 1968
9. **JETHRO TULL & YES** Wildwood Convention Hall... July 9th, 1971
10. **KINKS & SPIRIT & CHAMBERS BROTHERS** Spectrum... Dec. 5th 1970
11. **NEIL YOUNG** EFC... February 28th, 1970
12. **PATTI SMITH** Bijou... December 20, 1975
13. **PRETENDERS** Emerald City, Cherry Hill NJ... March 22, 1980
14. **PRINCE** Spectrum... October 20, 1988
15. **ROLLING STONES** Spectrum November 25, 1969
16. **ROXY MUSIC** Shubert February 15, 1975
17. **SLY & THE FAMILY STONE** Spectrum May 1971
18. **STEVIE WONDER** VFMF November 28, 1983
19. **TOM WAITS** Main Point April 25, 1975
20. **THE WHO** Original EFC... May 23, 1969

AC/DC... Spectrum August, 1990? I got backstage but never got to meet them. (4)

AL GREEN... Valley Forge Music Fair. Never saw women go so mad.

AL STEWART... Main Point. Year of the Cat tour.

ALAN PRICE... Bijou Cafe. Touring behind "Between Today and Yesterday" with a band so large they had to sit offstage.

1 - ALICE COOPER... Spectrum. January 15, 1972. The "Killer" tour. Would pay major bucks to relive

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that one. The Chambers Brothers and Commander Cody opened!(6)

ARETHA FRANKLIN... Trump Castle, November 27, 1988. Greatest female soul singer ever and I've seen her many times. Usually fantastic, but the last time I saw her she was just awful. (6)

ARGENT... Spectrum... 1972? Saw them open up for somebody at the Spectrum. Good show

ARTHUR BROWN... Actually opened for him at the Trump Castle, 1990?... On one of those live Morning Zoo shows (where he was backed by the Flaming Caucasians) and he was completely out of his mind.

THE ASSOCIATION... VFMF... August 17, 1976. I have no idea who was in the band, except I know that Terry Kirkman wasn't. Terry wrote "Cherish" and I got to hang with him for an entire day in LA.

AVERAGE WHITE BAND... Spectrum. I believe opening for the Beach Boys.

B52'S... Club Artemis... 1978? With about 20 people. (4)

BABY GRAND... Walnut Street Theater, November 6, 1978. Opening for The Hooters. Baby Grand were the forerunners to The Hooters

BAD COMPANY... Spectrum around '76. Paul Rodgers... What an underrated singer.

***** THE BAND...** Academy of Music... October 26, 1969. They were touring in support of their second album entitled "The Band" (one of my favorite albums of all time) and just being in there was so damn exciting. (3)

BARB JUNGR... Metropolitan Room in NYC... One woman Dylan show ~ excellent! (2)

BARBRA STRIESAND... Wachovia Center:October 10, 2006. Was still in amazing voice...

BEACH BOYS... Wildwood Beach 'July 4, 1971... So cool to see them in the sand! (10)

BEASTIE BOYS... Spectrum... April 7 1987 First rap show ever. In the round. A lot of fun.

BEN FOLDS FIVE... TLA... Somewhere around '97. Played two grand piano's at once. Great live act.

BETTE MIDLER... Bijou... December 12, 1972. Barry Manilow (not that I give a shit) was her piano player and Melissa Manchester was one of her backup singers. I saw her many times with my Mother who loved her. Because she's so schticky she goes underrated as a singer. (8)

BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY... Miami. Super Bowl 33. January 29, 1999. Elway's last game and through Craig Shoemaker I got invited to a party at the SCARFACE house! Yes, the house with the elevator that Michelle Pfeiffer comes down. They had a big tent set up outside and Voodoo Daddy was the band. There were amazing women and I stood in line to get some ice cream behind Sammy Sosa. Here's where the story gets really nuts. I was there with Mike Goldberg, a friend of Craig's, who wrote COOL RUNNINGS who is also from Philly. I see Pete Ciarrocchi from Chickie & Pete's and I introduce him to Mike and the two of them look at each other aghast because they were childhood buddies who hadn't seen each other in years. It was a terrific reunion for them both. Now the story gets totally weird. I am writing this on October 7th and I went to IMDB to make sure that Mike hasn't written something even cooler than RUNNINGS and it turns out Mike Goldberg passed away 5 days ago on the 2nd from cancer. So sad. A very nice guy he was. R.I. P.

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- BILLY JOEL...** Wachovia Center 2000? He was with Elton John. I have never been a big Joel fan, but they were free tickets, and I really enjoyed the show. (2)
- BILLY PAUL...** VFMF. '80? Opening for Gladys Knight & the Pips. My Mother loved Knight and we saw her a couple times together. Paul had two backup singers who's hair got stuck together!
- BLACK CROWES...** At an outdoor stage outside Super Bowl XXXIII... January 31, 1999 I was right up front and right before Jerry Glanville introduced them, he turned to the band and said "What's your name again?" and the Crowes drummer muttered "fucking asshole." What a great American band.
- BLACK SABBATH...** July 9th, 1972... Wildwood Convention Hall... with Black Oak Arkansas supporting. The second loudest show I was ever at. WCH was a terrific venue.
- BLONDIE...** Walnut Street Theatre. November 6, 1978... I saw Blondie many times. Most of the time by accident. (With Squeeze, Rockpile) They were not a great live band, but I didn't know that yet when I saw them this night. Harry was so sexy and PARALLEL LINES had just been released, so there was a real buzz in the air. This was the only show I ever saw at this classic venue and as far as I know there has never been another show there. Guess who opened? BABY GRAND, with Eric & Robby who ended up becoming the Hooters. (5)
- BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS...** VFMF... Sometime in the late 70's. There weren't many original members, but Clayton-Thomas was singing.
- BLUE OYSTER CULT...** Spectrum around 78. Nothing memorable.
- BLUES BROTHERS...** Mann Music Center, Summer of '80. My seats were horrible, but the great Steve Cropper was leading that awesome band and Belushi was doing his cartwheel thing and it's cool to say I saw them! Pretty sure this was the only time they ever came to Philly.



**** **BOB DYLAN...** January 6, 1974... Spectrum with the original BAND lineup. An afternoon show. They used to have those. My older brother raised me on Dylan from the time I was 9 years old. He was (and is) one of my true musical heroes and I will never forget that concert. I was also a huge fan of THE BAND, so seeing both was ridiculous. However, I was so swept up in the emotion of it all that I didn't notice that Dylan is an awful live act who doesn't give a flying fuck if you are even out there or not. It took me about 3 more times to understand this and I eventually stopped seeing him after a show at the Tower with G.E. Smith a million years ago. (5)

**** **BOB MARLEY...** Tower April 23rd, 1976... Wow! It was my first ever reggae show and I was just blown away. So exciting! (2)

BOBBY RYDELL... I think it was Resorts. 2008? I opened up for him. Nice guy and was still in terrific voice. (3)

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- BOBBY SHERMAN...** Philadelphia Convention Hall I was about 14, 15 and I would sell popcorn in the stands and I did so for Sherman. I remember he divided all the teenage girls into sections to see who could scream louder and even at that age I thought that was hokey. Then years later I saw Green Day do the same thing.
- BONNIE RAITT...** Main Point... Dec. 11th, 1973... Saw her a couple more times, but seeing her that night when she was so young and at the beginning of her career is a great memory. (3)
- BOOKER T & THE MGs...** Resorts... Somewhere in the late 80's early 90's... The one time I saw them was so strange. It was a Tuesday show at 5 PM. Huh? The room was half empty and the people who were there didn't give a shit about them. Backstage I got to talk to the legendary Steve Cropper for about a half hour. When I asked him who he loved backing up there most (and Steve has backed up **everybody**) he replied without hesitation, John Belushi.
- BOZ SCAGGS...** Tower Theatre... Late '76... He was touring behind the just released SILK DEGREES. Awesome show! (2)
- BRENDA LEE...** Bloomsburg State Fair... '81? The state fair was in my sister's backyard and I went with her and to see that big voice come out of that tiny woman was cool.
- BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA...** EFC... November 15, 1998... Larry Magid, who saw my wife and I in the back of the room, escorted us into the sound booth which hung over the stage and that was a really cool vantage point to watch this exciting show with the Orchestra. (2)
- **** **BRIAN WILSON...** Tower Theatre... 'June 17, 1999 I have been a Beach Boy fan as long as I have been alive. The first 45 I ever bought with my own money was "I Get Around." But as often as I had seen the Boys, this was the first time I was getting a chance to see Brian. With all his illnesses, I was expected the worse and the show was magnificent. Just to be in the same room was enough for me.
- 2 - BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN...** Spectrum... September 11, 1984... All 6 shows. Factoring in longevity, the two greatest front men in the history of rock are Jagger and Bruce. I have seen him in too many different venues to list starting with the Main Point in April 4th, 1973 and ending with the Mohecan Sun in Connecticut on May 17th, 2014. The "Born In The USA" shows of '84 were the pinnacle for me. Not that he wasn't awesome all the way up to that last date at the Wells Fargo Center on February 12, 2016.. or I wouldn't keep going again and again and again. (75)
- THE BUCKINGHAMS...** Scottish Rite Auditorium... Collingswood NJ November 28, 2008 . If you ever get a chance to go to this amazing venue, go for it.
- BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO...** Revival (at least that's what I think it was called then) 1990? It's now National Mechanics on 3rd St. Great show.
- BUDDY MILES...** Spectrum... 1972. Not sure if I had seen lead singing drummer before.
- 3- CANNED HEAT...** Convention Hall November 1, 1969 The Quaker City Rock Festival with CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SANTANA, and THE YOUNGBLOODS. Can you imagine this show and somehow I snuck right up to the front of the stage And don't think the Youngbloods were the also-rans of this bill, I was a HUGE fan then. What a night. (3)

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- ****CAPTAIN BEEFHART...** Bijou Cafe... Nov. 22 1978. Actually he was there two nights and I went to both. The last time he was truly great. He was touring behind "Shiny Beast" and his band was amazing, trombone player and all. He also did all the right selections from "Clear Spot" one of my favorite albums of all-time. Wish I was walking into that basement club right now to experience it all again. (3)
- CARELNE CARTER...** Bijou... '79? The daughter of June Carter and her first husband (not Johnny Cash), Carlene was hot at the time due to her marriage to Nick Lowe. As a matter of fact, her backing band that night was Graham Parker's band, The Rumour.
- CARLY SIMON...** Borgata Event Center... Nov. 25th, 2005 Carly has spent most her life not touring because of stage fright, but you would not have known it that night. At 60, she looked sexy as hell and was in terrific voice. Good show.
- CAROLE KING & CAT STEVENS...** Academy Of Music... '72? How weird is it that Cat follows Carole in iPod alphabetical order and that I saw them both together that night?
- 10 - CHAMBERS BROTHERS...** Spectrum... Dec. 5th 1970. One of the great live acts ever. I saw them countless times at many different venues, but how do you top this show when they shared the bill with the Kinks and Spirit? (10)
- CHARLIE GRACIE...** Moore's Inlet... Counts Paul McCartney and Van Morrison as a few of his biggest fans and I saw many, many sets at this classic long gone North Wildwood club.
- CHEAP TRICK...** Current EFC... 2000? What a great American band.
- **** CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY...** Convention Hall November 1, 1969. That's what they were called then and what I wouldn't pay to be walking through those doors right now. They were electric and so innovative. I saw them many, many times while Terry Kath was still alive. And Spooky Tooth Opened! SEE CANNED HEAT (6)
- CHIEFTAINS...** Valley Forge Music Fair... 90? So much fun and not one electric instrument.
- CHRISTINA AGUILERA...** Wachovia... April 3rd 2007. This chick's voice is the real deal. Great show with a half empty house.
- CHUBBY CHECKER...** Cooper River, Camden... '93? I was the opening act. Outdoor show. Beautiful night. Never talked to Chubby, but I knew his bassist and sax player.
- CHUCK BERRY...** VFMF... 3/21/75. Awful show with a pickup band that he probably never met till he walked out on stage. No one knew how to end the show.
- ****THE CLASH...** Penn Ice Skating Rink... Sept. 25th 1982. Yeah, you're reading this right. An ice skating rink! Penn used to have shows there. This was the Clash in all their glory. So freakin' loud your ears bled. An amazing energy life force. Will never forget it.
- THE COASTERS...** Kutztown University '89? Opened up for them at a big musical festival with a lot of other oldies acts. Carl Gardner was the only original member in the band at the time.
- COLDPLAY...** April 2008... Wachovia Center... Terrific show.
- COMMANDER CODY & THE LOST PLANET AIRMEN...** January 15th, 1972... Spectrum... On the same bill with the Alice Cooper and the Chambers Brothers. What an eclectic bill! SEE ALICE COOPER
- THE COMMITMENTS...** March 2005? Keswick Theatre... I opened up for them. The only original cast member from my favorite movie *EVER* about music was their bass player. A little disappointing.

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- COUNT BASIE...** Resorts, AC... August 1979... Opened up for Tony Bennett and then stayed out there to back Tony up. I was just getting into this bag. Wish I had this one back so I could appreciate it more.
- CROSBY STILLS NASH & YOUNG...** Spectrum... June 19th 1970... Never a big fan of CS&N. Only went for Neil and he did not disappoint.
- THE CURE...** Spectrum... July 10, 1996... Very stiff. Disappointing live.
- ******DAN HICKS & HIS HOT LICKS...** Irvine Auditorium... 1971? What a great venue! Do they still have concerts there? Great show with Martin Mull opening. Loved both acts and still play their music. (6)
- ******DARLENE LOVE...** Joe's Pub, NY... 2005? I've seen her many times, but this was the first and Joe's Pub is such a fantastic small venue that seats about 250. She was doing a Christmas show but she mixed in great tunes like "River Deep Mountain High with an dynamite band." (4)
- DAVE MASON...** Tower... June 14, 1972... I was only a mild Dave Mason fan but the excitement was in the air over this cool new venue.
- 4 - DAVID BOWIE...** Spectrum... July 18, 1983... The serious Moonlight tour. It opened up on Monday and that was the show I had tickets for. The show so blew me away that I managed to go to two more shows even though I have no idea how I could have come up with the scratch. I only didn't go on Wednesday because my comedy career had begun and I was booked that night. That's how huge he was. 4 straight Spectrum nights. (17)
- DAVID BROMBERG...** Main Point... May 19th 1973... Eclectic artist and brilliant guitar player, Lives in Wilmington DE now making violins.
- DAVID JOHANSEN...** Paradise... Boston... Fall 1978... I can't tell you how great this show was. I thought he was on his way towards rock stardom then the weird, sometimes cool, career he ended up having.
- DAVID SANBORN...** Keswick Theatre... 2005? One of the great sax players alive (Check out Bowie's "Somebody Up There Likes Me"). I was his opening act and I really wanted to meet him, but he was nowhere to be found. Turned out he was 10 feet away from me asleep on a couch and was awoken just two minutes before he had to go on stage. Got to hang with him a bit after his set.
- DEAD BOYS...** Grendel's Lair... Late 70's? Who knows? It was the single loudest show I HAVE EVER SEEN and my brain has still not recovered.
- DEAN MARTIN...** MGM Grand, Las Vegas... August 26th, 1980... Funniest thing ever. He comes out, pretty much goofs off for 30 minutes, sings an abbreviated half-assed version of "Everybody Loves Somebody" and says good night. The audience just kind of looked at each other figuring he was kidding and no one moves. Meanwhile, Martin doesn't leave the stage but goes to the rear and sits down with his piano player on his bench and silently talks to him. After about 30 seconds of this, he turns, see's the crowd still sitting there and walks back up to his mic and goes "What are all you doing sitting there? I said the show's over. Go. Go gamble or whatever you do." And slowly everyone began to leave. Many high-roller types had barely had even been seated to begin with. Outside the showroom people were asking for their money back. It was a riot. But you know what? I am such a huge fan that if I wasn't going to see a great show, it was cool I was there for this bizarre moment because it gives me a cooler story to tell.

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- THE DELLS...** Robin Hood Dell... Summer of 69? They were part of an oldies review. A bunch of us were shooting hoops when a basketball coach showed up at Finnegan Playground and said "anyone wanna go to a show?" We figured "what the hell" and jumped in his car. Cool venue, I was a big fan of the Dells. Still am.
- ****DEVO...** Tower... Dec. 30 1978... I was a huge fan and it was a terrific, creative, wild show in front of a crazed sold out crowd. I would love to see this one again.
- DIXIE CHICKS...** Spectrum... Oct. 14th 2000... No one paid any attention to opener Willie Nelson which was rude, but Natalie Maines has an amazing voice. Only went because of my daughters and was impressed.
- DONNA SUMMER...** Shubert Theatre (Now the Merriam)... Feb. 1977... My Mother was a huge fan. I am also. Not exactly of the "disco" genre, but she had a killer voice. Don't ask me how, but somehow I got front row seats and Summer actually made conversation with my Mom from onstage. Too cool. (2)
- ****THE DOORS...** The Arena... Sept. 19th, 1969... The now gone Arena was at 45th & Market and held about 6000. There were two shows and I went to them both. Morrison was a lunatic for one show and for the other never budged an inch. The shadow of Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo added to the exciting tension that was in the house. (3)
- DR JOHN...** Grendel's Lair... April 1986... All by himself on the piano.
- DRIFTERS...** Kutztown University... '89? Same show as the Coasters. I don't think they had an original member, but those songs sure are great.
- DROPKICK MURPHYS...** Underground Arts... Dec.10th, 2012... I love any venue that's in a basement and the Murphy's killed it in a special invite only show that Morganti got me into.
- ****EAGLES...** Spectrum... Aug.15th 1972... The Eagles were just starting out and YES were at the peak of the powers. Yes was the primary reason I went, but the Eagles managed to win the crowd over. JOJO GUNNE was formed by ex-members of one of my favorite bands ever, Spirit. One of those members, Jay Ferguson, went on to compose the theme song to THE OFFICE.



EDDIE BRUCE... Prince Music Theatre... Feb. 11th, 2009... Eddie's a Philly boy who has performed with the Philly Pops who put together this tremendous tribute show to Tony Bennett. If you ever get the chance to see it, don't miss. Great voice. (10)

ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA... Wildwood Convention Hall... July 8th, 1973... They were promoting their second "Roll Over Beethoven" LP (and their first since Jeff Lynne took over the band) and they were hungry to crack America. At one point a friend of mine flipped his jeff cap to Lynne and not only did he wear it the rest of the show, he left still wearing it and my bud never got it back. I am a major Jeff Lynne fan and saw them many times after this night. (7)

******ELTON JOHN...** Original Electric Factory... Sept. 11th 1970... His first show ever in Philly and he just blew the roof off the joint. I thought I was gonna see this sensitive singer-songwriter and he turned out to be Jerry Lee Lewis. And he was the opening act! Anyone remember for who? I know, but I just wanna see if you do. (3)

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- 5 -ELVIS COSTELLO...** Tower... Jan. 29th 1981... I've seen him a million times including his first one at the Tower when he was still the "angry young man." But for this one, he was in a great mood, did a terrific diversified set, Squeeze (at their height) was the opening act, and not only was I in the first row, I was living in a town called Millbourne at the time, and I walked there. One of the truly great artists of our time. (15)
- EMERSON LAKE & PALMER...** Wildwood Convention Hall... August 4th, 1971... I liked the band at the time and it was packed, but their live show was over-indulgent to say the least. Talented guys, though.
- EMINEM...** House of Blues, Atlantic City... July 9th, 2005... Big fan, but strange show. I was standing to the side where I could clearly see him furiously arguing offstage with what looked like a sound guy, and he was in a lousy mood all night. And the show wasn't advertised, so it was not full of Eminem fans, but half-full of high rollers who didn't give a shit.
- ERIC BURDON...** Dennis Flyer Theatre, Blackwood NJ... March 23, 2007... With Tommy Conwell. At 65, Burden (one of the great rock/blues singers ever) could still growl and belt and hit all the famous notes and Tommy is one of the best guitarists to come out of Philly ever.
- ETTA JAMES...** Trump Taj Mahal, AC... Summer 2006? Opened up for her and sad to say, she had seen her better days.
- EVERLY BROTHERS...** VFMF... Summer of '94? With Carl Perkins. Damn good show. Legends both.
- FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS...** Bijou Cafe... May 7th, 1981... With the awesome Kim Wilson on vocals and Jimmie Vaughn (Stevie Ray's bro) on guitar. Fantastic night.
- ****FAIRPORT CONVENTION...** Irvine Auditorium... March 4th 1972... With Lindisfarne who I was a huge fan of as I was of Fairport at that time. Magical night. (2)
- FATS DOMINO...** VFMF... 1988... Always a huge fan. Had a tight band and did not go through the motions.
- FELIX CAVALIERE...** 2009? Dennis Flyer Theatre... Lead singer and principal songwriter for the Hall of Fame band, the Rascals. I opened up for him and he was in terrific voice and really funny offstage.
- FIONA APPLE...** Taj Mahal... May 19th, 2006... She was part of a VH1 show that Elvis Costello had put together with Fiona and Billie Joe Armstrong. She did "Shabby doll" with Elvis's band backing her, amongst other tunes. Cool night.
- FIT TO FAIL...** The Grange, Mullica Hill NJ... 2003... A bunch of local friends of Ava put together a band and they needed someone to put up the hall rental fee, which I did. Because of that I went to the show to make sure the hall wasn't get ripped apart and I had a terrific time. I love high school kids who put bands together. One of them, Wayne Wildrick, is today a member of MAN OVERBOARD and they are on their way to great things. By the way, the Grange has been around since 1874.
- FLEETWOOD MAC...** Spectrum... April 30th, 1972... With Mountain and Spirit. This was right before Buckingham & Nicks joined the band and it was the only time I ever saw Mac. They were with Bob Welsh of "Hypnotized" fame and weren't all that well received. I went for the other acts anyway, although at one point I was a Mac fan when Peter Green was in the band earlier in their career.
- FOCUS...** Spectrum... Sept. 26th '74? A yodeling hard rocking' Dutch band with a flute player. And somehow they had an FM hit. With Joe Cocker and Little Feat.

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What a night.

- FOGHAT...** Spectrum... October 19th, 1974... With Black Oak Arkansas (who for some reason I saw three times) I was a huge Savoy Brown fan, hence I was a nut for Foghat.
- FOO FIGHTERS...** Spectrum... Feb. 21st, 2008... What a great fun live band. Love them! Sat with half a dozen Flyers (not that we knew each other) in awesome seats courtesy of my man Ray of Novacare.
- FOOLING APRIL...** World Cafe Live, Penn Campus... 2010? Terrific band who that night were performing the Beatles "Rubber Soul" and "Revolver" in its entirety as well as some of their excellent original stuff. Fun night.
- FOUR TOPS...** VFMF... 1988? I opened up for them years later at the Keswick, but that night Levi Stubbs was sick and didn't perform. The night at VFMF he was there though, and in excellent voice. (2)
- 6 - FRANK SINATRA...** Resorts... May 23, 1980... I saw the Greatest Pop Singer Who Ever Lived 20 times. I could pick his show at VFMF. Or the last time I saw him at the Sands in 1994. (I had skipped some previous shows because he had been awful, but that night he KILLED IT) Seeing him at Carnegie Hall was a thrill. But the first time I saw him was so special. I was hooked for life and look for the entire amazing story to be published in the May issue of South Jersey Magazine. (20)
- FRANKIE VALLI...** Sands AC... February 15th 1991... Hate to say it, but he was awful.
- FRASER & DEBOLT...** Main Point... May 73? Bizarre Canadian folk duo? Anyone ever see them?
- GALLAGHER & LYLE...** Bijou... May 26th 1977... Tremendous show promoting their "Breakaway" LP.
- GARBAGE...** TLA... April 24th, 1996... What a legendary lineup of musicians that at the time Shirley Manson could not keep up with.
- GARY CLARK, JR...** Borgata... July 12th 2014... Terrific guitarist with a disappointing live act.
- GARY NUMAN** Palladium, NY... February 24th, 1980... I thought he was going to be on the cutting edge of Kraftwerk style techno pop and not the one hit wonder he turned out to be. However, the amazing one man band Nash the Slash was the opening act.
- GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP...** Tweeter Center... Camden NJ... Part of an oldies review (I was there to see Tommy James with Will Lee), this lame ass teen crooner actually did a Jimi Hendrix medley?! Hilarious.
- 7 - GENESIS...** Tower... March 10, 1973? I saw them a dozen times with Peter Gabriel (including a 5pm Sunday show with my Mother), but the midnight show for anyone who was there is legendary!!! (8)
- GEORGE JONES...** Ryman Auditorium, Nashville... April 10th, 2011... He was 79, and not in great voice. But to see Jones at the Ryman? What a thrill!
- GEORGE THOROGOOD...** Bijou... April 18th, 1978... What a terrific showman.
- GEORGE SHEARING...** Carengie Hall... September 19th, 1981... Brilliant jazz pianist opening for Frank Sinatra. To this day, i'm only beginning to get into jazz and I wish I would have appreciated this moment more.
- GEORGIE FAME...** Trump Taj... May 12, 2005... Technically speaking, he wasn't the opening act, just a member of Van's band that night. But He was huge British star back in the day, and Van allowed him 3 songs on his own that show, so it was sort of a

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mini-set of Fame on that fantastic Hammond organ. It was also the last time I saw Van and the last time I ever will. I love him to death, but he has such contempt for the audience.

******GLADYS KNIGHT...** Keswick... April? It was definitely 2005... One of my Mom's favorite singers, we had seen her many times. My mother had full blown Alzheimer's by now and God I wish she could have seen me open for her and meet her and talk to her. I had a great set, Gladys was amazing, and Johnny Sample was hanging around after the show. He died about three weeks later. (2)

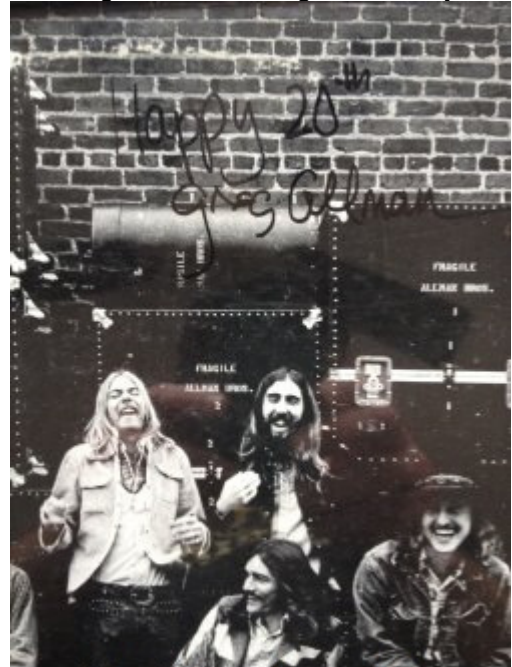
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA... Keswick... 2000? I love big band music, but it just wasn't loud enough!

******GRAHAM PARKER & THE RUMOUR...** Shubert... June 5th, 1979... He was touring behind one of the rock's monumental albums, SQUEEZING OUT SPARKS. This was as big as he was ever gonna get and I'm thrilled I was present. (3)

**** **GREGG ALLMAN...** SPECTRUM... April 27th, 1988... The Morning Zoo had this big anniversary

show and I got to hang with so many greats. Steve Howe, Paul Carrick, Southside Johnny, the Hooters among many others. I did a set myself and got 15,000 attendees to shout out "Watch The Tramcar Please!" at the same time. Pretty cool. Steve Howe was so cool and we talked about a show Yes did at the Wildwood Convention Hall touring behind that green "The Yes Album" (the one with "Starship Trooper" on it) where they opened for Jethro Tull for about 15 minutes. The Hooters actually went on before me and I joked for years whenever I bumped into any of them, "Thanks for opening up for me that night." Paul Carrack was super friendly also. When I went to Allman's dressing room it was right out of the back cover of "Live at the Fillmore East." Bikers, strippers, strong pot smell, and a giant bouncer outside the door that none of the other acts had.

When I said to the the dude that I was on the bill and I wanted to meet Gregg and maybe get my "Fillmore" album signed, he put his giant claw on me and said "wait here." He went in the dressing room and came back with it signed. Lord knows whose signature is really on it, I extremely doubt it's Gregg's. What a fun night!



I don't know, do you think he really signed this?

HALL & OATES... Willow Grove Air Station... June 23rd, 1989... I opened up for them in front of 10,000 people after having to follow the fantastic Soul Survivors. I had a great set, but sad to say, it was a weird day. H&O had this overzealous road manager and Danny Bonaduce (rightfully so) almost beat the crap out of him. I split after H&O did three songs and I never saw them again.

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- HARRY CHAPIN...** Villanova Field House... Sept 10, 1979... Great storyteller who died way too soon.
- HERBIE HANCOCK...** Keswick... 2005? I opened up and there was an HOUR break between my set and his. He just totally disappeared. Then out of the pouring rain he walks in and went directly on to the stage with no intro, the lighting people weren't ready, and he sat down at the piano and started to play. His backup band went scurrying put on stage to join him. Then years later, I'm reading about Hancock in a Miles Davis autobiography and there's a section where Miles bitches about how late Herbie always was when he was in his band. Hmmm.
- HERMAN'S HERMITS...** VFMF... 1995? Peter Noone is an excellent live act. Just terrific. (3)
- ****THE HOOTERS...** Chestnut Cabaret... Feb, 1984? So exciting. They were the biggest band in town in years and they were on the cusp of being signed to Columbia. I was opening and there were hundreds of gorgeous women pressed up against the stage. I had not experienced that as a performer before and I remember thinking "not too bad being a rock star, eh?" Now they are still a great band, but the buzz in the air back then was just incredible. A night I'll never forget. (5)
- IGGY POP...** Tower... March 19th, 1977... With David Bowie as his keyboard player, I'm not sure if I was expecting Iggy to slice his head off or something to that effect, but I do know I left disappointed.
- INTRUDERS...** Robin Hood Dell... Summer '69? They were part of a soul review and a lot of fun.
- ****J GEILS BAND...** Trenton Civic Center... April 5th, 1975... Not counting the E Street band (and they are technically a backing band), Geils may be the single greatest live band America ever produced. I saw them many times and I'm not even sure why I picked this one, but we somehow got right up front and maybe that was it. (11)
- JACKSON BROWNE...** Mann... Summer 1978... Great band headed by the terrific slide guitarist David Lindley.
- 8 - JAMES BROWN...** Spectrum... Summer 1968... In his prime! It was the first concert I ever went to. Saw him many times afterwards, but this one changed my life! Nipsy Russell opened. (5)
- ****JAMES TAYLOR...** Main Point... December 26th, 1969... Not counting the occasional tune here and there, I pretty much stopped paying attention to Taylor after his third album, but this was the first show I ever saw at this legendary club and I awestruck by what you could do with just an acoustic guitar. Plus I still say that his first album is one of the greatest albums ever made by anybody and his classic SWEET BABY JAMES wasn't even out yet, so he pretty much did the entire record.
- JAY BLACK & THE AMERICANS...** Keswick... 1995? I opened up him and it was the first time I worked the Keswick. I was told to keep it clean, no cursing. Which I did and I had a great set. Jay Black, what a classing booming baritone! Then I meet him and he not only looks like Sam Kinison, he's got a mouth on him like Sam.
- JEFF BECK...** Tower... Oct 13, 2013... With Brian Wilson, so it was a great night. Thanks to Center City Harvey for the 2nd row seats. Brian was shot that night, but Beck was on fire and he does it as casually as you and I may make toast. Amazing player. (2)
- JEFFERSON AIRPLANE...** Palestra... November 29th, 1969... With cool local band Sweet Stavin Chain and Lighthouse, it was the only show I ever saw at this fabled shrine and to my

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knowledge they never had another rock show. Grace Slick with all her rebellious sexy swag.

- JERRY LEE LEWIS...** Broadway... June 3 1983... A complete disaster. He used an unrehearsed local band and songs would awkwardly start and clumsily finish. He maybe did 35 minutes and he introduced his new fifth wife who was in the audience and she was mysteriously dead in a couple months. I saw him again twice and he was awesome the second and really old and bizarre the third, but this is the show I choose to remember. And now I perform at this legendary theatre. (3)
- 9 - JETHRO TULL...** Wildwood Convention Hall... July 9th, 1971... Tull, with Ian Anderson as their dynamic frontman, was one of the great underrated live acts ever. They were touring behind their latest release, a little LP titled AQUALUNG. Opening up and performing their first show ever in the US was YES, touring behind THE YES ALBUM. What a night and years later I opened for Steve Howe, Yes's brilliant guitarist and we spent 20 minutes discussing this memorable night. (8)
- JIM CROCE...** VFMF... Summer 1973? I went to see Woody Allen and Jim Croce, who I didn't care about at all, completely won me over. He was funny, engaging, and put on a wonderful show.
- JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE...** Temple Stadium... May 16, 1970... With the Grateful Dead, Steve Miller and Cactus and unfortunately I got really sick from something (Lord knows what) and the whole day was a blur. Shame on me.
- JO JO GUNNE...** Spectrum... September 15th, 1972... Kind of a one hit wonder who opened for the Eagles and Yes on this date. Jay Ferguson was in the band, late of one of my all-time favorite bands, Spirit, and he later went on to write the theme song for THE OFFICE. SEE EAGLES.
- JOAN JETT...** Some Insane Club in Ft. Lauderdale... April 12th, 1982... She wasn't a star yet and it was probably the last horrible booking of her career. Me and my wife were hanging at this club and we didn't even know she was going to be appearing. I was familiar with her because of THE RUNAWAYS, but not much. She came on about an hour after a wet tee shirt contest and the unruly drunken 700-Level crowd (who didn't know who she even was) started screaming at her. "Show us your tits!" "Take your top off!" Jett did three songs, flipped the crowd the bird, and told them "to all go fuck yourselves" and stormed off. That's Rock & Roll.
- JOE COCKER...** Academy of Music ... April 5th 1970... The legendary "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" tour. What a great night.
- JOE JACKSON...** Pulsations Disco... January 13th, 1986... Weird show. Weird disco venue.
- JPHN FOGERTY...** Tower... September 1997? What a true American artist. With the awesome Kenny Aronoff on drums.
- ****JOHN HARTFORD...** Main Point... November 1971? John put out one of my favorite LP's of all time called AEREOPLAIN and he was touring behind it and brought this incredibly expensive Nashville backing band. There were 4 shows and I think I went to three of them. And I never had any money, how did I go to any of these? (3)
- JOHN LEE HOOKER...** Main Point... October 1977? The first 2 times I went to see him, he didn't show, so the third time was the charm. What an original.
- JOHN MAYALL...** EFC... Sept 19, 1970... He was touring behind his true American breakout LP, TURNING POINT and it was a terrific show.
- JOHN PRINE...** Academy of Music... April 12, 1975... This is going to be a completely politically

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incorrect paragraph. I was in Sea isle city drinking like a fish with a bunch of my buddies. One of whom, Mouse McCourt, was holding a pair of tickets to the show. He was supposed to take his girlfriend, but the drunker I got the more insistent I became he take me. Which he did. How we got from Sea Isle to Philly is a mystery that will never be solved. Then we actually got sat in one of those opera boxes with about eight other people. We saw the opening act, The terrific Steve Goodman, for one song. Then the next thing we knew all the lights were on in the Academy of Music and an usher was waking us up. We slept through the rest of Goodman's show, the intermission, and all of John Prine. Plus Mouse and the girl broke up!

- JOHNNY A...** The Point... Bryn Mawr... This was the club that was opened up a couple stores down from the original Main Point. It didn't stay open too long but it was a great club. Johnny A is one terrific guitarist.
- JOHNNY WINTER...** EFC... October 30, 1970. Speaking of great guitar players.
- JONATHAN RICHMAN...** Main Point... November 24, 1976... Always Dug this oddball character. (4)
- JONI MITCHELL...** Academy of Music... March 1972?... I was a huge fan of her once, before she became so miserable.
- JULEE CRUISE...** TLA... 1991?... I was a Huge "Twin Peaks" fan but when I was offered the opening slot for this gig I thought the crowd might be "weird" on a comic. Cruise played the night club singer on this groundbreaking TV show. But I ended up having a great set and it was a cool night.
- JULIE ANDREWS...** Mann... My wife was a big fan which is why I went but the night was kind of sappy to tell you to truth.
- KEELY SMITH...** Golden Nugget AC... 1988?... She was singing in the lounge and someone requested "Angelina." She said she wouldn't be able to remember those words it was such an old song when my sister pointed to me and said "he knows the words." The next thing you know I was singing this song with her and it was a big thrill. She is still alive and singing today and you may know her as one of the singers on the song that opens my show, WHEN YOU'RE SMILING! (8)
- KEITH RICHARDS...** Tower... February 16, 1993... Look up the definition of "rock and roll star" in any dictionary and you'll find a picture of Keith.
- KEN PEPOWSKI...** Don't Tell Mama, Manhattan... 2015... This is a great story. I am listening to a cable television jazz station. A saxophone version of the great Brian Wilson song "Caroline No" came on so I downloaded it. It's really beautiful. Less than a week later I'm in this great New York club and he's just part of the band. Small world. I show them this song on my iPhone. Really cool guy.
- KENNY ROGERS...** Grand Ol' Opry, Nashville... April 9, 2011... Me and my wife didn't even know he was going to be on the bill and for a man in his 70s he was in terrific voice. A real pro.
- KID CREOLE & THE COCONUTS...** Chestnut Cabaret... 1999?... What a fun band they were.
- THE KILLERS...** Borgata... August 8th, 2014... I am a giant Killers fan but the crowd that night was a little lame and the show never took off.
- 10 -THE KINKS...** Spectrum... December 5th... See the Chambers Brothers. What a life long fan of this band I have been. Long live Ray Davies! (8)

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- **** **LAURA NYRO...** Main Point... August 9, 1970... It was a Sunday afternoon show and she was electrifying. (2)
- LECOMPT...** Any sweaty night at the Springfield... ever... Check out Mike's original stuff on iTunes. Well worth it.
- LED ZEPPELIN...** Spectrum... March 31, 1970... Unfortunately, I was sick the whole night.
- LEE MICHAELS...** EFC... November 7, 1969... What a unique show. Just Lee on his Hammond B3 and a dude named Frosty on drums.
- LEN BARRY...** VFMF... 1995?... Former lead singer for the Dovells who had a few solo hits of his own like "1-2-3." Great voice. For a time he booked the entertainment at the Khyber Pass Pub and he was the very first person to hire me as Big Daddy Graham. He had the hots for my girl Debbie (later to be my wife), which is the main reason he hired me.
- LENNY WELSH...** Tropicana AC... 2010?... Sang SINCE I FELL FOR YOU and hit every note despite he was about 72. I was the Master of Ceremonies of this event along with "The Geator," Jerry Blavat.
- LEO SAYER...** Bijou... February 11, 1976... Underrated singer songwriter in the beginning of his career.
- LEON RUSSELL...** Cherry Hill Arena... October 23, 1971... The only time I was ever in this now gone venue that was known as the "Ice House."
- LES McCANN & EDDIE HARRIS...** McGonigle Hall, Temple Campus... Summer of 1970... There was a time in this town when WMMR actually had no discernible playlist and an awesome jazz song like "Compared To What" was a FM hit. We used to play it at parties all the time. Me and my buddy Mouse went to the show and afterwards we got to talk to McCann just like two geeks at the black bar in "Animal House." I didn't know enough about jazz then to appreciate most of the show, but I wish I could see it again.
- LESLEY GORE...** Tropicana, AC... 2010?... Same show with Lenny Welsh. Cool woman and a real music nut. We had a nice backstage conversation. (2)
- LINDA RONSTADT...** Mann... Summer '78?... She was awesome in her prime and always had a great band.
- ******LINDISFARNE...** Irvine... March 4th 1972... With Fairport Convention. Lindisfarne was a British folk band, sort of a forerunner to Mumford and Sons. Awesome night. (4)
- LITTLE ANTHONY & THE IMPERIALS...** VFMF... 1995... Gourdine was still in terrific voice! (2)
- LITTLE PEGGY MARCH...** Tropicana... 2010?... Singer of I WILL FOLLOW HIM. Same show as Lesley Gore and Lenny Welsh.
- LITTLE RICHARD...** VFMF... Late 80's?... True giant of the biz, but he only did about 30 minutes.
- LIZA MINNELLI...** Academy of Music... 1982?... Before we officially found out just how nuts she was, she actually was an amazing singer and since I was such a big fan of her Mother (who I had never seen), this was as close as I could get. (3)
- LORETTA LYNN...** Bloomsburg State Fair... August 1986... The Fair was in the backyard of my sister's house and she had gotten me tickets as I would have never cared to have gotten them myself. And you know what? She was really funny and engaging and this Fair was a perfect setting.
- LOS LOBOS...** Temple Campus... May 1985?... I was performing as part of a big outdoor

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festival with multiple stages. I was going on before Los Lobos on the same stage. After I was though, I found myself in a conversation with their brilliant guitarist and leader, David Hidalgo. I congratulated him on the band winning Rolling Stones "Best New Band" award. He laughed and said "I wish it came with a cash prize." Cut to years later I'm driving over the Ben and I'm listening to WXPN's David Dye interview he Hidalgo and near the end of the interview he brings up a Los Lobos album named "Colossal Head" and tells him that he expects it to win WXPN's Album of the Year" and Hidalgo says to him, "Does that come with a cash prize?" Swear to God. Laughed myself sick and I knew I was the only one laughing.

LOU RAWLS... Robin Hood Dell... 1970?... What a unique voice.

******LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III...** Main Point... Late 1970 / Early 1971?... My absolute favorite performer ever with just an acoustic in his hand. I could have picked any Main Point performance (I've seen him live a dozen times), so I'll go with the first. (12)

MADNESS... Hot Club... 1980?... The Hot Club! A Philly punk club! Dag, I loved this joint and I actually played there myself when I was a drummer with Dewey Street. Madness was a British ska band and I've always loved ska.

******MANHATTAN TRANSFER...** Bijou... 1976?... Wow, they were great in their early days when they were doing big band swing and doo-wop. Later on they turned into a strictly jazz vocal quartet and that didn't float my boat. But these Bijou shows were legendary and I ended up working with them on a four night stand at Resorts years later. (6)

MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS... VFMF... 1984?... What a voice!

MARTIN MULL... Bijou... 1973?... I know he's more of a comic than a musician and this list does not include comics, but it was a musical comedy show and a great one at that. Check out his first album, it's terrific on many levels. A real shame he stopped performing live because he was hilarious. Saw him many times back in this period. (5)

MARVIN GAYE... VFMF... 1975?... One of my musical heroes, but it was a short show and he did a ton of medleys and I can't stand medleys. And it turned out it was the only time I ever saw this artistic giant.

MAVERICKS... Cooper River... 1999?... Love this band, but it was outdoor day show and it was blazing hot.

MAYNARD FERGUSON... Temple Ambler Campus... 1975?... Saw Steve Miller, ELO, and others at this cool venue which I can't seem to find any info on. Maynard could sure play that trumpet!

MCFADDEN AND WHITEHEAD... Jack's Place, Avalon NJ... August 2000?... They were hired do perform at the Sixer Beach Bash. Boy, those days were a lot of fun.

MELISSA ETHERIDGE... Spectrum... 1994?... My daughter Keely was a big fan and I remember she had a great guitar player and that they did YOU SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LONG. I had opened up for her in '89 when no one knew she was gay and all my man/women material bombed and I ate it like Jabba the Hutt.

MERLE HAGGARD... VFMF... 1994?... What a voice.

MINK DEVILLE... Bijou... 78? 79? God, their debut LP is one of my all time favs and I thought they were going to be huge stars...

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- MOODY BLUES...** Spectrum... September 27th, 1970... I used to be a big fan and they were great live, but oddly, I never play their music today. (4)
- MOSE ALLISON...** Main Point... Oct. 16th, 1970... One of my first forays into jazz and he is one cool dude.
- 11 - NEIL YOUNG...** EFC... February 28th, 1970... Wow, what a legendary show... And I went by myself because no one would go with me! First he did an acoustic set by himself and then the legendary original Crazy Horse came out and rocked the house with all those great songs from EVERYONE KNOWS THIS IS NOWHERE which was stink in' brand new at the time. It was the first time he performed in Philly and I've seen him 20 times since. (20)
- NICK LOWE...** Brandywine... April 6th, 1982... Good solid show from a great songwriter.
- NINE INCH NAILS...** Spectrum... May 6th, 2000... Amazing show from an amazing artist.
- OJAYS...** Robin Hood Dell... Summer of '69? Same great show with the Dells and the Intruders.
- OSCAR PETERSON...** Kimmell... Sept 29th 2002? Maybe my favorite piano player of all-time.
- PAT BENETAR...** Grandma Minnie's... 1976?... I was only there to check out comedians (I was just beginning to think about becoming one) and Benetar was there with a piano player singing Sinatra standards. She wasn't a rocker yet.
- 12 - PATTI SMITH...** Bijou... December 20, 1975... OMG, she and her band were simply electrifying. My jaw dropped. I had never seen anything like her. Her records have never captured her live explosiveness, balls, humor, and genuine "out there" nature. (10)
- ****PAUL MCCARTNEY...** Boardwalk Hall Atlantic City... September 29th, 2002... Amazing voice. Fantastic setlist. cool venue. (2)
- PEARL JAM...** Wells Fargo... October 22, 2013... As great as they were, the set was disjointed and never caught fire.
- PERE UBO...** Hot Club... April 24, 1979... A very strange avant-garde punk band from Cleveland who accosted the audience all night long and the crowd was more than happy to heap abuse upon them. Bizarre night.
- PERSUASIONS...** Main Point... May 18, 1973... An a Capella group who did clever covers and who I saw at least five times at the Point. They would bring whoever wanted to come out of the audience to sing with them on stage for an encore and I was always happy to oblige. Still around! (5)
- PETER GABRIEL...** JFK Stadium... September 19th, 1988... It was an Amnesty charity event on a beautiful, memorable night. On a bill with Springsteen, Sting and Tracy Chapman who sang "Don't Give Up" with Gabriel.
- PETER WOLF...** City Lights... Manhattan... February 23, 2015... An acoustic show backed with just a couple guitar players. He can't help but be great.
- ****PINK FLOYD...** EFC... September 26th, 1970... Saw them many, many times, but the first was a mindblower. Even then, long before DARK SIDE, they had an incredible lights and sound show including the first time I ever heard "surround sound." And this was live! (7)
- THE PLATTERS...** Kutztown University... '89... On a bill with a bunch of oldies acts. No original members unfortunately and they were fighting backstage.
- PRESERVATION JAZZ** Preservation Hall... New Orleans... March, 27, 2011... OMG, DO NOT EVEN

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- HALL BAND...** THINK of going to the Big Easy without going to see this American treasure on St. Peter St.
- 13 - PRETENDERS...** Emerald City, Cherry Hill NJ... March 22, 1980... Their first time in town with Honeyman-Scott and Farndon still alive. What an amazing night and the beginning of a live long love affair with Chrissie Hynde. What a fantastic venue! (8)
- 14 - PRINCE...** Spectrum... October 20, 1988... 8 majestic songs. It was the "Lovesexy" tour and for the rest of my life I'll see Prince standing at the edge of the stage under a solo spot wailing on his guitar for the finale of "Purple Rain." (3)
- PROCOL HARUM...** Electric Factory... June 19, 1970... The last time I saw them with the great Robin Trower and they opened up with "WhiskeyTrain." (9)
- QUEEN...** Tower... January 31, 1976... You would think that since this is the only time I saw them, that this would at least be nominated for one of the "Top 20" since I am a major Queen fan. And they were touring behind "Night At The Opera" no less. But they were using background vocal tapes to recreate their wall of vocals sound and it just didn't quite work and some people actually booed.
- R.E.M. ...** Wachovia Center... September 29, 2004... They were part of the Springsteen Kerry tour and they were really dynamic. I am a mild fan and I wasn't expecting much.
- RALPH MCTELL...** Main Point... October 16, 1971... Pleasant British folk singer (Remember "Street of London?") who was the opening act for Randy Newman and isn't it ironic that one act follows the other on my iPod?
- RANDY NEWMAN...** Main Point... October 16, 1971... One of my music heroes. I've seen him at least a dozen times and I figured I might as well go with the first time I saw him. Always hilarious live. (12)
- RAY CHARLES...** The Stone Balloon... Newark DE... December 1987? The first time I ever opened for ANYBODY and imagine it's Ray stinkin' Charles! This was the show that convinced my Mother that maybe she should take this "comedy thing" of mine seriously because she loved Ray. I did two shows on a Tuesday night at this rock club (odd setting) and Ray and his band arrived very late for the first show and I had to stretch in front of a crowd who were not there to see me at all and they were getting pretty restless. My show went good though and the second show was awesome. Between shows I got to meet and talk with Ray for a while and it's one of the highlights of my life and I'm serious about that. (4)
- RAY DAVIES...** Tower November 21, 2009 Terrific show. One of my music heroes. (2)
- REBA McINTRE...** VFMF July 1989 I was not into country music AT ALL at this point in my life, so I must have got free tickets and she was awesome. What a great voice.
- THE REPLACEMENTS...** Tower April 7, 1989 They were drunk on their ass and Westerberg sat on the drum riser most of the night, but I guess that was the perfect way to see them, right?
- RICHIE HAVENS...** Main Point 1971? Always a big fan.
- RICKI LEE JONES...** Keswick November 6, 2003 great show with a lot of cool covers.
- ****RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS...** Rajah Theatre, Reading March 2004 A night I will never forget. I opened, had a great show, and then the Brothers ripped the roof off in front of an amazing audience. Afterwards, my wife (because the official cameraman's

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camera broke) ended up taking photo's of all of us that needed up in Variety Magazine. Hatfield passes away in November, which makes the entire evening more bittersweet. (2)

ROBERT FRIPP & THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN... Bijou July 2, 1980 All instrumental quirky show and an honor to be in the room with this creative madman.

ROBERT GORDON... Emerald City 1981 With the amazing Chris Spedding on guitar. (2)

ROBERT HAZZARD... Cherry Hill Hyatt 1992? WMMR party and I ended up onstage singing background vocals which is weird because I didn't know him at all.

******THE ROCHEs...** Bottom Line NY 2003? This legendary venue was closing and the Roches hadn't been together in a while and those two subplots combined to create a truly awesome show from one of my favorite trio's ever. Their brother showed up for the memorable encore of Van Morrison's "Irish Heartbeat." (5)

ROCKPILE... Tower July 13, 1979 Opened up for Blondie and blew them off the stage. (2)

ROD STEWART... Borgata August 23, 2008 It was the first time I ever saw him live after being a huge fan since the beginning of his career and he did not disappoint!

15 - ROLLING STONES... Spectrum November 25, 1969 I was so young and hadn't been that excited since I got my hands underneath Rita DiMucci's bra. One of those shows that changes your life. Have seen them at least 20 times since and they never let you down. (25)

THE ROMANTICS... Ocean Drive 1989? Guess what song they did?

RON SEXSMITH... City Lights, Manhattan February 2015 Underrated low key singer-songwriter.

RONNIE JAMES... The Five Spot 1998? Ronnie had a tight little swing band and this was a happening Bank St. club back in the nineties, early oughts.

RONNIE SPECTOR... VFMF 1995 She was majestic!

ROOMFUL OF BLUES... Chestnut Cabaret October 6, 1989 God, I loved this horn based blues band. (3)

******RORY GALLAGHER...** Main Point 9274 September 2, 1974 Unforgettable night from this amazing guitarist and top 5 loudest shows I was ever at.

16 - ROXY MUSIC... Shubert February 15, 1975 One of my all-time favorite bands and were they ever on this night. (7)

******ROY ORBISON...** VFMF October 22, 1987 With Carl Perkins! Roy's stunning comeback was complete and he sang all his classics that night in their original key. Unfortunately, he passes a little over a year later.

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT... Carnegie Hall June 14, 2007 He completely recreated Judy Garlands legendary Carnegie Hall Show of 1961.

SAM BUTERA... Resorts 1980-1985 Pick a night. Pick a set. My wife and I used to sit for hours and listen to Louis Prima's former band leader. One of the great saxophonists of all time. (75 sets?)

3 - SANTANA... Convention Hall November 1, 1969 Well, you can't go wrong with a lineup of Chicago, The youngbloods, and Canned Heat. Plus saving this ticket stub gave you the right to buy '69 Stones tix before anyone else. Santana was a smoking' band back then! (3)

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- SAVOY BROWN...** EFC Early 70's With one of the great blues guitarists of all time, Kim Simmonds (2)
- SEATRAN...** Belmont Plateau, Fairmount Park April 1970 Earth Day!
- THE SHAGS...** Doc Watsons 1998? Chuck Penza, one of the leaders of this Jersey based pop band, is a fantastic singer-songwriter.
- SIR DOUGLAS QUINTET...** Aquarama 1968? The Aquarama was South Philly's version of a "Sea World" type attraction. I loved it and we used to ride our bikes do to it because we knew a way to sneak in. Ed Hurst ran a dance/TV show there and one day I saw Sir Doug.
- SKIP DENNEBERG...** May 24, 2010 A very talented Philly singer songwriter who accompanied me on "Subterranean Homesick Blues" at a Dylan birthday party that Kenn Kweeder organized. Then Skip did a terrific set of his own.
- 17 - SLY AND THE FAMILY STONE...** Spectrum May 1971? An hour and a half late and I would wait a day and an hour and a half to see this show again. One of the most influential bands of all time. (5)
- SMOKEY ROBINSON...** Keswick April 20, 2005 Opened up for him and he was one of the coolest most together cats I ever met. Hung and talked to him for 40 minutes which considering he's in the Top Ten Songwriters of All Time was a tremendous honor for me. (3)
- SOUL SURVIVORS...** Willow Grove Air Force Base June 23, 1989 Same show I did with Hall & Oates, I went on after the Survivors and I always thought they were a good blue-eyed soul band. "Expressway To Your Heart" is Top 5 Philly Song Ever. (2)
- SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY...** Spectrum April 27, 1988 Southside was part of that WMMR 20th anniversary party that I worked with so many cool acts. Great singer, terrific horns. (2)
- SPARKS...** Tower March 27, 1976 Opening for Patti Smith, I was a major fan of the Mael brothers. (3)
- SPINNERS...** Franklin Field 1973? Penn football played an occasional game at night followed by a free concert and his was the Spinners while the great tenor Philippe Wynne was still alive.
- ****SPINS NITELY...** The Poplar Wildwood NJ June 1970 I knew him a little bit in high school and I dropped in to see him where he was living for the summer. I didn't even know he played the guitar and I had never seen anyone play slide guitar before and he just blew me away. So began a lifelong friendship. (1, 325)
- 10 - SPIRIT...** Spectrum December 5, 1970 With the Chambers Brothers and the Kinks! I loved Spirit and the late great Randy California (who drowned saving his son from drowning) is one of the more uniquely talented guitarists ever. (10)
- ****SPOOKY TOOTH...** Original EFC February 7, 1969 Gary Wright was their lead singer. With Chicago Transit Authority! The first time I ever called a radio station to request a song was into WMMR and Michael Tearson (Who I came to know later in my life) answered the phone itself and it made me so nervous. The song I requested was "Evil Woman" (not the ELO song) by this cool British band.
- 5 - SQUEEZE...** Tower January 29, 1981 With Elvis Costello. There was even a duet with Glenn Tilbrook and Elvis on "From A Whisper To A Scream." Awesome night! (5)
- STAN & THE TOPICS...** TLA January 1998? The great Harvey Holiday produces these doo-wop shows that always have a great lineup. Stan & the Topics are an excellent local doo-wop band.
- STEELEYE SPAN...** Main Point December 1972? Excellent English folk rock band. (2)
- STEELY DAN...** Tower November 9, 2009 The only time I ever saw them. For years they didn't tour at all.

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- STEVE MARTIN...** Bijou... February 25, 1976... What an honor to see one of my future idols in such a small club. Opening up was former NFL player turned county performer, Mike Reid. How weird is that? BTW, Martin is on here because I actually have two songs ("King Tut" being one of them) on my ipod) (2)
- STEVE MILLER BAND...** Temple Ambler June 1976? What a great guitar player. (2)
- STEVEN WRIGHT...** Comedy Works 1988? I have one hilarious song by Wright on my iPod titled "The Kitten Song" which is how this one of a kind comic makes it on here. This is was back when comics (I was working across the street at the CFO) used to drop in on each others sets all the time.
- 18 - STEVIE WONDER...** VFMF November 28, 1983 He was playing nothing but arenas at this point in his career and I'm not sure why he was at such a small venue and I don't remember how I scored tickets, but it was simply one of the more amazing shows EVER! I saw the show with my Mom and my wife Debbie who told my Mom she had a "feeling" that she was pregnant and sure enough! Stevie oozes love! (7)
- STRAWBS...** Keswick September 17, 2011 Nice unplugged set opening for the Zombies.
- STRAY CATS...** Philadelphia Zoo August 1, 1984 That's right. The Zoo use to have concerts and this one, with the Hooters opening, was a lot of fun. Both bands at the top of their game.
- STYLISTICS...** VFMF 1994? Russell Thompkins Jr. is one of the greatest falsetto singers ever.
- SUTHERLAND BROTHERS AND QUIVER...** Tower Februry 12, 1971 Opening for the Kinks with the terrific Tim Renwick on guitar.
- TAJ MAHAL...** Main Point 1972? Fun, eclectic artist. (2)
- ****TALKING HEADS...** Zoo August 27, 1979 God, I loved this band during this time period. (5)
- TEDDY PENDERGRASS...** VFMF October 1979 I never saw women go wilder. It ruined the show a little actually. (2)
- TEMPTATIONS...** Scottish Rite March 6, 2011 I was the opening act and I knew Otic Williams was the only original member left, so I wasn't sure exactly what to expect. Dennis Edwards was no longer with them (I opened for him once also) either and they put on a tight very entertaining show and I got to rap with Otis for a while.
- TEN YEARS AFTER...** Original Electric Factory February 5, 1971 With Procol Harum (who was the real reason I went) and Leon Russell, AFTER were overwrought.
- TERENCE TRENT DARBY...** Tower I opened up and since I was living in Upper Darby at the time, Larry Magid, the president of EFC, once told me I was the only act who ever performed at the Tower WHO WALKED THERE!
- THIN LIZZY...** October 21, 1977 I believe they would have become a band for the ages had not Phil Lynott passed so early.
- TODD RUNDGREN...** Belmont Plateau July 1974? Beautiful day and a great show. (5)
- TOM JONES...** Resorts Summer 1998? I was always a fan.
- TOM RUSH...** Main Point Summer 1974? I only have one song by him on my Ipod ("Urge For Going"), but I ended up seeing him three times because the Main Point was just so awesome. (3)

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- 19 - TOM WAITS...** Main Point April 25, 1975 What I wouldn't do to see him again. PLEASE TOUR! One of my all-time music heroes. On this show he was backed by a sax/drums/acoustic bass trio (The Nocturnal Emissions) comprised of three legendary musicians who had backed everyone from Sinatra to Steely Dan. I even met him at the bar ("You Bet Your Life?") across the street before the show. (15)
- TOMMY CONWELL...** Shenanigans, Sealsle City September 2, 1987 One of the best guitar players this town has ever produced. (5)
- TOMMY JAMES...** Tweeter Center (I can't remember what it was called then) 1998? With the amazing Will Lee on bass. (2)
- TONY BENNETT...** Resorts August 1982? with Count Basie and at the time I don't think I appreciated Tony as much as I do today. I wish I had this show back.
- TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS...** Bijou 1975? Played for over three hours which no one ever did at this club. Reggae is so cool live.
- TOWER OF POWER...** VFMF June 1. 1996 With War!
- TRAIN...** Borgata August 30, 2014 Boy, this Pat Monahan can really sing.
- TRAMPS...** VFMF 1990? Part of some disco review show. I can't even remember why I was there.
- TRENEIRS...** Resorts Between 1980-85, my wife and I used to go all the time to the Rendezvous Lounge. (?) Some nights we would see thm with Sam Butera and sit there (and I'm not kidding) for six hours. And it was free! (30 sets?)
- TUBES...** Tower May 4, 1979 White Punks On Dope! (With Squeeze!)
- TYMES...** VFMF 1990? Part of some oldies review.
- ****U2...** First Union Center June 9, 2001 The Elevation tour. What a show! (3)
- VAN HALEN...** Hershey Park Summer 1999? Was staying at the Hershey Hotel and me and Debbie LISTENED to the whole show from the balcony of the hotel on a beautiful summer night. With the infamous Gary Cherone on lead vocals.
- ****VAN MORRISON...** Original EF November 21, 1970 The last show ever at this legendary venue. Imagine, Van was touring behind MOONDANCE and STREET CHOIR! (15)
- WAR...** VFMF JUNE 1. 1996 With Tower of Power!
- ****WARREN ZEVON...** Roxy, LA July 7, 1978 The Roxy was LA's version of Philly's Bijou. It's a small little club on Sunset Strip owned by Lou Adler and a hangout for Jack Nicholson and the like. t was the first time I was ever in LA. Zevon was touring behind EXCITABLE BOY. God, knows how we got in, but he had an amazing band led by Waddy Wachtel. 9 songs from Springsteen's first LIVE collection were recorded here. (3)
- WEATHER REPORT...** Temple Ambler 79? Jaco was still with the band.
- WHITNEY HOUSTON...** Mann... August 27, 1986... I hate the Mann when I'm sitting a mile away and I was that night.
- 20 - THE WHO...** Original EFC... May 23, 1969... The show that changed my life forever. The first rock show I ever saw. My older brother took me. Remember, the original EF had no liquor license. It was all ages. At that point in my life, I liked music a lot, but my true loves were sports and girls. After watching Townshend, Daltrey, Entwistle, and Moon, music officially joined those two. But more importantly, as I exited the club and made my way up 22nd St towards my trolley, a giant hypodermic needle came out of the sky and show me up with an energy I never felt before. The (particularly Keith and Pete) were so loud, so violent, so alive that I said to myself right there, I was gonna end up on stage. More than any other concert that will

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appear on this list, this is the one I want back. AND GUESS WHAT? I AM WRITING THIS ON MARCH 14, 2016 AND I AM SEEING THEM TONIGHT!!! (31)

WILLIE NELSON... See DIXIE CHICKS

WISHBONE ASH... Spectrum 1972? The Flying V!

9 - YES... See JETHRO TULL. (5)

3-YOUNGBLOODS... See CANNED HEAT. (3)

THE ZOMBIES Keswick... September 17, 2011... Terrific show with the Strawbs.

ZZ TOP... Borgata... August 30, 2014... Hard to believe I ad never seen them before. Billy Gibbons rocks the house!

10CC... Tower... December 5, 1975... Used prerecorded backing vocals with didn't sit well with the crowd.