

The Evolution of Modern Music and My Appreciation

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I offer a very special thank you to those who sent me this excellent video!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVME_l4lwII

I hope you will bear with me as I explain why I found this video to be so important, and how this and my changing tastes in music have affected me. Music has always been a big part of my life since my first grade school visits to Carnegie Hall! In those early years, I had small statues of Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Mozart and Tchaikovsky on my dresser! A decade later in 1960, I saw Van Cliburn perform the Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1 and the Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 3 in San Diego. The legendary pianist had just returned from the International Moscow competition, where he had won First Prize, and was then on his unprecedented American tour. Until the 1970s, I was strictly into classical music.

Then I met Jonnie, my wife to be! She took me to my first Rock Concert at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles -- it was the Elton John *Yellow Brick Road* tour and my life was never again the same! Shortly after this, I found the rock opera *Tommy* by the Who, performed, with a stellar cast, by the London Symphony Orchestra. I later migrated to the pure Rock concert performance by The Who! By then "the die is cast"! I only regret not saving our countless ticket stubs from concert venues all over America, and for me Europe as well! Between 1973 and 1993, we did not miss a major rock concert; some three and four times like Fleetwood Mac, Pink Floyd, U2 and the Bee Gees; including my returns to Carnegie Hall and the New York Metropolitan Opera.

In one 6-month relocation stay in Manhattan, I was able to see the four-night performance of Wagner's entire Ring Cycle, and later *Der Fliegende Hollander*! At Carnegie Hall, I had a front row, center seat for the world acclaimed performance of Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony no. 2 conducted by the late Gilbert Kaplan -- a night I will never forget. Moreover, this does not count the myriad of other plays, concerts and operas I have attended. I still watch dozens of classical and rock performances on my subscription to <https://qello.com/> -- a fantastic streaming service that features virtually everything in full concert music!

We stopped going to concerts when I decided to build my own sound system anchored with Klipschorns <https://tinyurl.com/y9uwvj44>! I could not afford them today, but was able to in 1985, when we lived in Nashville, TN. The other eight speakers are Klipsch as well; and while the center, surround and subwoofers are smaller, they are matched companions to the K-Horns. When downloading Internet audio and video, the signal is routed to a Roku Ultra on our 5G WiFi network. I no longer have a turntable and gave all of my albums to my son decades ago. He is now in the vinyl craze, and has a great system that even makes my old "records" sound good. In addition to hundreds of other CD's, I have Original Master Recording CD's of Supertramp, and Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon, but our extreme Internet 300 Mbps signal is a better sound!

An HDMI, 3D capable, Yamaha amp also presents video on our 82" Mitsubishi big screen! It's almost as good as being in a concert hall, even a stadium. Actually better because there are no annoying people talking, rattling paper and coming and going, and we do not have to drive home after the performance! The system also has components for my older laser discs and VHS, as well as CD's, standard DVD's and Blue Ray. When playing movies coded in 3D the dimensional realism is mesmerizing!

In the 1970's and 1980's, I also liked high-end discotheques! There were some truly great ones in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Palm Springs, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Dallas, Chicago and New York City. In those days, DJ's just played records, but their sound systems were phenomenal. The DJ's of today are electronic geniuses who create their own music, and there are many with skills, the likes of Tiësto and Cosmic Gate. Very accomplished and esoteric Trance and EDM composers have now replaced the Disco genre; and Raves have become more popular with today's youth, than the sit down concerts of my time. I now rarely play any of my CD's! For better sound and convenience, <https://www.pandora.com/> delivers it all.

Just after the Holidays, I had watched one of my all time favorites! Supertramp Live in Paris '79, a performance of their Breakfast in America tour, which Jonnie and I had seen live in the Milwaukee Bucks Arena in the fall of 1979 -- a record album that alone had sold 20 million copies. After reading this paper, my son Steve called to remind me that he and I had also seen the launch of this tour at the famous outdoor Alpine Valley Music Theater <https://tinyurl.com/ycoj4qdh> in the summer of 1979. He remembered it well as this was his first live concert. He was then just nine, and in subsequent years, I had taken him to a number of other concerts in

Wisconsin and Tennessee. I would like to believe I helped set the path for him becoming a rock music enthusiast, as well as a musician in his own right. In one memorable night at Alpine Valley, I took him back stage to meet Patrick Simmons of the Doobie-Brothers. I knew Pat from our cooperation with the group when I was with Harley-Davidson.

I bought the remastered audio and video blue ray DVD of the Paris performance as a present to myself. It plays in full 7.2 surround; *and* I had no idea how emotional this was going to be! I was taken back to the time and place in Milwaukee, and experienced all the sadness of the "*it was*", I had learned from Nietzsche. I **was** then Vice President of Marketing and Sales of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. **Now** I am *just* an old man on my way to 80! However, Nietzsche had also taught me the *Will to Power*, and the *dance* of the Ubermensch! This concert reinforced the blend of all my bygones, with the joy of the wonderful presence of still being here!

Of all the music I have lived, this Gem from the era of Pop music's best voice, resurrects a superior group presenting their legendary American tour! The performance captures the best of all that has happened to popular music since the 1950's. Moreover, because of my lifelong interest, I was able to relate to everything in the YouTube link above, yet also be thankful to have experienced it all; and that I can still recreate the best, even with tears in my eyes as this concert ended with the absolute raw power of the haunting and moving *Crime of the Century*!