

The Evolution of Modern Music and My Appreciation

Robert Lee Rohrer

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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_I4IwII

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, while stationed at Camp Pendleton 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 was 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 video concert music!

We stopped going to concerts when I decided to build our own sound system anchored with Klipschorns <https://tinyurl.com/y9uwvj44>! I could not afford them today, but could in 1985, when we lived in Nashville, TN. My current system has nine Klipsch speakers. While the center, surround, Atmos, and two internal powered subwoofers are smaller, they are all matched companions to the K-Horns. The two Atmos, speakers provide an aural umbrella of sound.

When downloading Internet audio and video, the signal is routed to a Roku 4K Ultra from our 5g Wi-Fi 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. However, I still have hundreds of other CD's, and original Master Recordings of Supertramp, and Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* and *Wish You Were Here*, but our extreme Internet 300 Mbps signal is a better sound!

A Yamaha 4K Atmos receiver, with nine discrete internal amps, powers our sound system! With HDMI output to our 82" Mitsubishi big screen, it is almost as good as being in a concert hall, even a stadium. Well, 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! I have also retained other components to play VHS, laser discs, CD's, DVD's and Blue Ray discs.

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 amazing skills, the likes of Tiësto, Paul Oakenfold and Cosmic Gate. Very accomplished and esoteric Trance and EDM composers have now replaced the Disco genre; and Rave Concerts 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. Now, YouTube Music is becoming the go to source for countless multi-hour continuous DJ mixes! With the concept albums of the 1970's, it always bothered me there was still that break between songs! Now we finally have seamless performances!

Last January, 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 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 Christmas present to myself. It plays in full 9.2 surround; *and* I had no idea how emotional this was going to be! I was taken back to a time and place in Milwaukee, and experienced all the sadness of the "*it was*", which 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 retired man of 81! 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 just 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 music history of the opening link above. Nevertheless, most of all 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*!