

## **WHICH BANDS OR MUSICIANS HAVE YOU MOST LIKED SEEING LIVE? WHO WERE YOUR FAVOURITE MUSICIANS AND CONCERTS AND WHY?**

This question covers a whole lifetime, of course. It is a huge question because there are so many bands I have seen and none that I really did not like – I wouldn't have gone otherwise, would I?! Having said that, it is possible that one goes to watch a band and they are disappointing. Two years ago, I had the opposite experience. We went to see Coldplay and I said that it was the best concert I had ever been to. In addition to Coldplay's great music, Chris Martin is the ultimate showman, engaging his audience, and encouraging them to participate by using lights on their phones.

But not all performers are happy 'showing off', or even performing for their admirers. Bob Dylan, famously, is not an extrovert. Perhaps this is not surprising, as the sort of introspection that is required to write the brilliant and iconic songs that he writes, does not lend itself to the extroversion that is required of 'a performer'. I remember going to see Sting in Dubai with our son, Ben. Sting did not come over as an extrovert. A great concert, none the less!

Talking of Dubai, one of the great performers I saw there was Elton John. I have seen Elton perform three times now, the first at Wembley Stadium, the second at Vicarage Road and the third, and last, in Dubai. Elton John, and his lyricist, Bernie Taupin, have written some truly wonderful songs, songs that will cross the generations.

Another band I have seen three times is Fleetwood Mac, but these experiences were very different. That is not due to the quality, as I really enjoyed all the concerts, but because of the timespan between the gigs. The first two concerts I saw, when I was still at school myself, were at Manchester Polytechnic and at a club in Crewe. The first featured Peter Green, an iconic guitarist who created tracks such as 'Albatross', which has such a haunting melody, not typical of an age, the late 1960s, when it was all about rock. Peter Green had left the band by the time of the Crewe concert, having fallen out with some of its other members. The third Fleetwood Mac concert I saw was quite different. Again, it was at Wembley Stadium, but this time it was much later in my life, as I went with my wife, Hilary, and our grown-up children. The band featured the likes of Stevie Nicks and Christine McVie, and was the group that most people would now know as Fleetwood Mac, particularly the younger generations. Another great concert, though!

So, if I have a theme for my piece, perhaps it should be called 'Bands across the ages', not only because I have seen artists at different times of my life, but because the work of truly great artists travels across the generations. Are you listening 'The Beach Boys'? Our children certainly were as they listened to Dad's tapes in the car as they were growing up. And guess what? As an adult, our daughter, Hannah, has now been with me to see the same band in Melbourne, Australia, this time with the sons of the original Beach Boys taking the lead vocals.

Time moves on for us all, but talent never dies, it simply moves from generation to generation.