

CRAIG MORRISON

CONCERT REVIEWS

Buffalo Springfield Revisited at the Living Room, Providence, Rhode Island, June 20, 1987

Buffalo Springfield, left to right: Dewey Martin, Richie Furay, Stephen Stills, Bruce Palmer, Neil Young One summer night in 1987, I drove down from Boston with some friends to Providence, Rhode Island, to see a concert of the Buffalo Springfield Revisited and the Guess Who. The club was called the Living Room, and it was standing room only, not only because there was a big crowd, but also because there were no chairs. In my living room I have some, but there the chairs were only on the patio deck.

Both bands gave solid shows and are well worth seeing. Both bands have been revived by original members. The Guess Who has been valiantly carried on for many years by original bassist Jim Kale, and recently he's been reunited with original drummer Gary Peterson. In the Buffalo Springfield Revisited, the only original member is bassist Bruce Palmer.

Bruce Plamer had been semi-retired from music for about ten years when, in 1982, he was reunited with Neil Young for the latter's "Trans" tour. After that, he wanted to start playing again. He had settled in L.A. and fell together with the Revisited musicians. Some had met original Springfield drummer Dewey Martin, who had been playing with Rick Roberts (ex-Firefall) and Randy Meisner (ex-Eagles). Martin didn't want to go on an extensive tour, but the new players individually studied their parts and put together a band, first called "Springfield," in February 1986. They started steadily touring in May. At the time of this concert (earlier that day they had played in Gardener, Massachusetts), they had worked six weeks with the Guess Who and had more shows ahead, with talk of going to Japan. They had played in Toronto, a sold-out boat cruise in Boston, and did 12 days in St. Thomas (in the Virgin Islands). They found a good response for their music, and that the audiences appreciate 1960s rock that says something. One of the band members said that Bruce Palmer's role is to give the players room to move and he only speaks up when something's not right, such as when they work on the musical grooves.

Practically any band calling itself a version of the Buffalo Springfield would have satisfied some aspect of my curiosity, as they could draw from that catalogue of awesome compositions, but this band knocked me out with their talent, musicianship, energy, sound, delivery, professionalism, dedication, and the promise shown by their one new original composition.

Lead vocalist Frank Wilks, playing acoustic guitar, has the perfect Buffalo Springfield voice. It contains traces of all the original singers, especially Young, and yet is distinctive in its own right. Stan Endersby and Bob Frederickson play lead guitars and sing backup. Bruce is a completely solid, fabulous bassist though he stays away from microphones. Newest member is drummer Scott Lombardi, who joined the band in May. The show's repertoire was drawn evenly from all three Springfield LPs. From the first one: "Go and Say Goodbye," "Leave," and "For What It's Worth." From Again: "Rock 'n' Roll Woman," "Hung Upside Down," "Mr. Soul," and "Bluebird." And from Last Time Around we heard "On the Way Home," "I Am A Child," "Questions," and "Special Care." In addition, we heard "Cortez the Killer" from Neil Young's Zuma, plus the new original, called "You're Not Alone Anymore."

Not performed that night but also in the band's repertoire, are other Springfield tunes: "Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing," "Kind Woman," "Do I Have To Come Right Out and Say It," "Four Days Gone," and Neil Young's "Helpless," but not "Sit Down I Think I Love You" or "Broken Arrow." The Buffalo Springfield Revisited have about ten more originals, some already have been recorded for an LP. I eagerly await the LP and urge you to check them out if you get half a chance.

Source URL: http://www.craigmorrison.com/article.php3?id_article=30