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Entertainment

ON A DIFFERENT NOTE: Riffing on Badfinger, the Beatles & ST94

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The last time I sat down and attempted to put together a list of venues I'd been to for a music performance, I'd been to well over 100 different places. I word it that way because I've been to my fair share of concerts in places designed for anything but music.

Trust me, the acoustics at the Skydome — er ... the Rogers Centre, sorry — in Toronto could use just a wee bit of tweaking.

On the other hand, I've also been to the Brixton Academy in a tough part of London and The Lyric in bitterly cold Kitchener, Ontario, Canada and the Celebrity Theater in the swelteringly dry heat of Phoenix. All venues that sounded near perfect — or at least they did on the nights I was there.

But with all the places I've been, very, very few equal the true musical treasure that we have basically in our backyard.

For a total music-going experience, you will go a long way before you find a place that delivers the complete package the way the Sellersville Theater 1894 does. Have you ever heard a show there that didn't sound nearly flawless?

The other evening, during **Joey Molland's** show, there were some technical difficulties before the opening number. It occurred to me as Molland joked with the audience, strummed his guitar and sang snippets from a couple of **Badfinger** songs, that even the technical problems there manage to sound good.

I've yet to be at a show there where fans couldn't mingle with the artist after the show.

And can you think of any other seated venue where you can take your pint of favorite adult beverage back to your seat in an actual glass?

Throw in the almost always reasonable prices of tickets and you've got a venue I'd put up against the very best I've ever had the chance to visit.

The great old train station across the parking lot doesn't hurt for aesthetics either, especially when you have a 2-and-a-half-year-old with you.

As much as I enjoy the Sellersville Theater, I thought the Beatle-esque music of Badfinger might be a perfect music and setting to ease Liam into another new musical experience. I've had Liam to a couple of different musical events, but this was the first time I was going to try and take him to a reserved-seat event. I figured if we made it through three full songs it would a true victory.

I timed our arrival to be just a few minutes before Molland went onstage. Liam was a hit in the lobby, saying "Hi, my name's Liam!" to just about anyone who walked near us. Inside, happily sitting in the last row to give Liam room to "dance," I was pleasantly surprised how he calmly sat in my lap and pointed out the different instruments on the stage.

He delivered the first laughs of the evening for me after a local deejay took the stage to say a few words about Molland, Badfinger's history and their connection to **the Beatles**. As soon as the Fab Four were

mentioned, Liam turned to me, eyes lighting up and said, “We’re seeing Beatles, Daddy?!”

I can pull off some miracles, but that’s one I really wish I could deliver for my son.

Liam even sat patiently through the technical problems I mentioned. Once the band launched into “Baby Blue,” I have to admit I was more intrigued by Liam’s reaction than Molland’s performance — which was great, by the way.

Liam’s eyes never stopped taking things in. I saw him register a couple near us clapping, so he started clapping. Another waved their hand in the air, so Liam waved his hand.

At the conclusion of the song, he clapped with everyone else and as the applause died down with the room going quiet and Molland about to speak, Liam turned to me and said, “Oh my, that’s just too loud, Daddy!”

Molland didn’t catch it, but just about everyone else seemed to. Liam ate up the laughter around us, even if he didn’t fully know the cause of it.

We made it through two more songs before he wanted to “go play the drums up there” and I decided we’d take the small step forward we’d made and savor it. He even got some high-fives on the way out from a few fans and staff.

All in all, yet another memorable night in a memorable venue.