

# Music Events I've Attended (2025 May UPDATE)

By Fred Pinkerton

(Memorable Shows In Bold)

## Rock/Pop/Folk/Traditional

**Allman Brothers Band, The** w/ Duane Allman  
Amboy Dukes, The (*Ted Nugent*)  
Avett Brothers, The  
**Band, The**  
**Beatles, The**  
(*Aug. 18, 1966, Suffolk Downs Boston MA*)  
Berry, Chuck  
Blues Image  
The Bob Seger System (*opening for Jeff. Airplane*)  
Bonoff, Karla  
Booker T and the MGs  
Box Tops, The  
Bromberg, David  
Butterfield Blues Band, Paul  
Canned Heat (*with and w/o Harvey Mandel*)  
**Captain Beefheart And His Magic Band**  
(*Rockette Morton, Ed Marimba, Drumbo, Winged Eel Fingerling, Zoot Horn Rollo*)  
Chicago Transit Authority (*w/ Terry Kath*)  
Clapton, Eric (*with Keith Moon and Peter Townsend*)  
Cocker, Joe  
Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen  
Costello, Elvis  
Crykle, The  
Credence Clearwater Revival  
Delaney and Bonnie (*before E. Clapton collaboration*)  
Dion (DiMucci)  
Fabulous Thunderbirds (*Duke Robillard*), The  
Fogerty, John  
**Genesis**  
(*with Peter Gabriel*) **Selling England by the Pound** tour  
The Grateful Dead (*with Pigpen*)  
Grand Funk Railroad (not willingly...)  
Hebb, Bobby  
Ian & Silvia  
It's A Beautiful Day  
**Jefferson Airplane**  
(*3 outstanding singers!... plus J. Kaukonen*)  
Jethro Tull (Passion Play tour, **Martin Barre!**)  
Joplin, Janis  
**King Crimson**  
**Led Zeppelin**  
**Little Feat** (*twice, both w/ Lowell George*)  
Mother's Finest (a great band from Georgia!)  
Malone, Bob  
(solo performer and keyboard for John Fogerty)

Mason, Dave  
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, The  
NRBQ (New Rythym & Blues Quartet)  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
Pentangle  
**Poco** (circa 1971, right after Jim Messina left)  
Police, The Raitt, Bonnie  
Remains, The (*at Aug 1966 The Beatles show*)  
Rivers, Johnny  
**Rolling Stones, The** (twice)  
Ronettes, The (*at Aug 1966 The Beatles show*)  
**Russell, Leon** (a personal favorite artist)  
Springsteen, Bruce (**1974 & 2012, 38 years apart!**)  
Spirit  
Staples Singers, The  
Steeleye Span  
Sweetwater  
Ten Wheel Drive  
Tommy James and The Shondells  
Trower, Robin (**1973 & 2014, 41 years apart!**)  
Winter, Edgar  
Winter, Johnny  
Zappa, Frank (*with Flo and Eddy*)

## Jazz / Fusion

**Benson, George**  
Blood, Sweat & Tears  
Brubeck, Dave with Gerry Mulligan  
Burton, Gary  
**Chick Corea and Return To Forever**  
(*circa 1974 w/guitarist Bill Connors, a real artist!*)  
Ferguson, Maynard  
Jones, Philly Joe  
Kirk, Rashaan Roland  
Kooper, Al (Big Band phase 1969)  
**Mahavishnu Orchestra, The**  
(*circa 1974. What an outstanding group!*)  
Marsalis, Branford  
Severinson, Doc  
**Short, Bobby** (*at Cafe Carlyle, NYC*)  
Sun Ra and the Arkestra  
Vaughn, Sarah  
**Weather Report**

## Live “Broadway-type Musical Shows

Book of Mormon

Brigadoon (1963, Edward Viella, Sally Anne Howes)

How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (Nick Jonas, 2012)

Showboat (1966, with Margaret Hamilton--the *Wicked Witch of the West* in the 1939 *The Wizard of Oz* movie, Constance Towers, Margaret Hamilton, Barbara Cook no-show) City Center NYC

**The Drowsy Chaperone (Sutton Foster)**, Broadway

**Duck Soup** (Huntington Theater, Boston, circa 1985) Along with a great “Marx Bros. Tribute” quartet, this show featured the first and only instance I have seen of a couple dancing and twirling “arm in arm” (vigorously!) while also singing quite well.

## Live Theater Shows (no music)

American Buffalo (with Al Pacino) Boston tryout

Breaking The Code (with Derek Jacoby) NYC 1985

The Primary English Class (with Diane Keaton) NYC 1976 Circle In The Square theater

## Classical Music Performances

Atlanta Symphony, Robert Shaw conductor

Berlin Philharmonic, Herbert Von Karajan conductor

Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seiji Ozawa conductor and with Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Boston Pops Orchestra (multiple concerts).

My favorite featured Sam Pilafian soloist,

Vaughn Williams *Tuba Concerto*.

Chicago Symphony, Georg Solti conductor

**Cleveland Orchestra**, Pierre Boulez

(*La Mer*, *The Miraculous Mandarin*, *The Rite of Spring*)

**London Symphony**, Andre Previn conductor Somehow, the London Symphony managed to play noticeably louder than any other orchestra I had heard in Boston’s Symphony Hall...and I have heard seven different world-class orchestras in this venue.

New York Philharmonic, L. Bernstein conductor

Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy conductor

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, Bernard Haitink conductor

Vienna Philharmonic, Willi Boskovsky(?) conductor

## Classical Music (personal)

I attended **Boston University** School of Fine Arts in the early 1970s. My goal was a career playing bass trombone in an orchestra. I ended up creating home entertainment electronics. But along the way, I still got to play in some outstanding orchestra and chamber music groups.

I especially remember when Henryk Szeryng conducted our **BU** Orchestra. He was a violin soloist and conductor of the greatest talent. He gave all of us playing a glimpse of what it would be like to perform for a career.

While at **BU**, I performed in many times with two outstanding undergraduate trumpet players:

**Rolf Smedvig** and **Richard Raffio**.

Richard Raffio went on to become the principal trumpet in the Radio City Music Hall orchestra and played in the orchestras of many Broadway shows.

Rolf Smedvig became the principal trumpet of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1979--while still in his 20s! He went on to found the **Empire Brass**, which recorded over 20 LP/CDs.

The Empire Brass featured the virtuoso tuba player Sam Pilafian (see my earlier Boston Pops entry). Sam and I both went to the same high school, Coral Gables HS, in southern Florida. Sam graduated a year before I started attending CGHS in my junior year. Even so, Sam sought me out while at Boston University to encourage my music career. It was a kindness I’ll never forget.

## CLOSE, but no cigar...

*Outstanding musicians I’ve met and had a conversation with..., but not seen perform live.*

**Wynton Marsalis**: I sat next to him on a plane flight from Boston to Detroit! He had met Rolf Smedvig at Tanglewood and was surprised to sit next to another brass player. A real thrill for me.

**Mick Fleetwood**: He visited my company HQ to endorse a portable sound system of ours. He used it while touring with Fleetwood Mac.