

Mon. 6th May 2002, Cardiff Internati onal Arena, Cardiff, United Kingdom Disc 1 77.06 Disc 2 71.49 **1. Intro** 0.47 1. Moonlight (harmonica) 4.51 2. Humming Bird 3.58 **2. Summer Days** 8.18 3. The Times They Are A-Changin' 6.11 **3. The Wicked Messenger** (harmonica) 5.06 4. It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding) 6.21 **4. Rainy Day Women #12 & 35** 7.36 5. It's All Over Now, Baby Blue (harmonica) 7.40 **5. Things Have Changed** 5.55 6. Solid Rock 4.23 6. Like A Rolling Stone 7.44 7. Knockin' On Heaven's Door 5.08 7. Positively 4th Street 7.01 8. Lonesome Day Blues 7.19 8. Honest With Me 6.25 9. Stuck Inside Of Mobile 9. Blowin' In The Wind 5.48 With The Memphis Blues Again 7.45 10. All Along The Watchtower 4.53 10. Masters Of War 4.55 11. Visions Of Johanna (harmonica) 9.00 12. Tangled Up In Blue 9.00 Bob Dylan - vocal, guitar, harmonica Charlie Sexton – guitar, backup vocals Larry Campbell - guitar, mandolin, violin, pedal steel guitar, electric slide guitar, cittern, backup vocals Tony Garnier – bass Jim Keltner - drums

After the last Cardiff Dylan concert in September 2000 we thought it couldn't get any better. We were wrong. Last Monday (6th May) the packed all-ages audience experienced a generous 2 hr 20 minutes worth of magic as Bob, in his 61st year, in suite and white stetson, steered us through a varied collection of his back pages. He was again supported by the excellent Larry Campbell and Charlie Sexton, muscular bass player Tony Garnier and Jim Keltner (who toured Europe with Neil Young And Booker T & the MGs), although on a personal note I preferred former drummer David Kemper who always seemed to hold both skill and intuition well in place giving a complex subtlety to things.

We got off to a slow yet nicely paced four song acoustic set, "Humming Bird" country and laid back, then into a well-arranged but non-vibrant "Times" where we got that kind of mumble he has been doing followed by high note nevertheless the band provided definition and there was wonderful strong cohesion on "It's Alright Ma". The acoustics ended with "Baby Blue" which for



me would have been mediocre had it not been lifted by the winsome harp.

Then without warning we were thrust into "Solid Rock" with punchy bass by Tony Garnier and some great vocals. "Positively 4th" came in ballad form and "Lonesome Day" was traditional 12 bar delivered with tight precision and receiving mega applause. The low point of the concert was undoubtedly the lackluster "Memphis Bluesbut the re-worked arrangement of "Masters of War" was spit out - and fabulous.

We were now warming up to something special and it came. "Visions of J." What a superb extended harp intro, and his voice did something great on this track. It was almost liquid, flowing but without too much sentiment, leaving you aching for more. An eternal moment, I could have stayed there forever. There followed 11 more songs – a masterful version of "Tangled up in Blue", great flare and disregard on "Summer Days" and a slower "Rainy Day Women".

The first encore gave us a tight "Thing have Changed" and then far off lightening flared on to the audience during "Rolling Stone" which is now resigned to being his theme tune.

Oh but it was not over yet. No No No. The best was yet to be. We were given the performance of a lifetime on the acoustic "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" – here the lighting flushed everyone in majestic purple, and with an apocalytic hush the audience stilled. Not even a cough. The hairs on my neck lifted; it was simply magnificent. I want that version that night at my funeral, it was quite simply the best I have ever heard from him.

The concert finished long and strong with a gripping version of "All along the Watchtower" prefixed with the first bar from the musical "Exodus".

Thank you Bob for a glorious performance. When I am old I shall sit in that rockin'chair sipping wine and blowing smoke rings and remember it all, and smile.

