







Bob Dylan at Teatro del Generalife in Granada, Spain

The Generalife gardens at sunset are sublime and by 9.30 the smartest of Granada's citizens have filled every seat of this initimate, cyprus- bordered auditorium. The buzz is palpable as friends embrace friends and an unusually gender-balanced and smartly dressed Bob crowd take their seats.

Bob and band roar in with a supercharged "Watching The River Flow" and Bob pulls out with a joyous "thank you".

A voice calls out "Blowin in the Wind" from the front left side of the audience. Bob says "we hear you – we can hear every word you say" and plays "Key West", answering the audience member's implicit question with lines like "I do what I think is right, what I think is best", "If you're looking for immortality, Stay on the road, follow the highway sign" and "Wherever I travel, wherever I roam, I'm not that far from the comfort of home" (Bob's been listening to Metallica it seems, and following the same Beaten Path).

Key West was compelling and one of the evening's stand-out songs. Likewise "My Own Version of You" was riveting.

Settled in and taking a breath Bob said "This is a beautiful place to play – I wish it was like this every night."

Much laughter and joking between Bob





and Tony before "Gotta Serve Somebody" which is then performed in a blistering new arrangement that owes more than a little to Lennon's "Gotta Serve Yourself": probably the best of the night's oldies.

The Rough and Rowdy songs dominate and resonate with only "Crossing The Rubicon' and "Mother Of Muses" stretching

the limits of their content. "Every Grain of Sand" was a little fatigued compared to last year and the harmonica limited in length and expression but, none the less, great to hear.

This has been the opening concert of the 2023 festival and a major event in the musical heritage of Generalife and Granada. The ambience and the crowd's warmth raised Bob and the band's energy and performance to a joyous level.

A voice from front left had called out "I Love You" and Bob had replied "I Love You Too". Its difficult to think that the years ahead may ever bring a greater Bob Dylan show, but then ... by Nick Cowie

