

Bookends--Fleetwood Mac and Pink Floyd

<http://www.today.com/toyotaconcertseries/dreams-come-true-fleetwood-mac-take-over-today-plaza-2D80205381> (Little Lies on Today)

http://www.rollingstone.com/music/videos/david-gilmour-on-pink-floyd-its-a-shame-but-this-is-the-end-20141009?utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=daily&utm_campaign=100914_16&utm_medium=email&ea=bW9saXZhc0B1aC5lZHU= (RS.com, Pink Floyd story)

<http://consequenceofsound.net/2014/10/pink-floyd-premiere-new-song-louder-than-words-listen/> (try this one for Pink Floyd, although it might also be taken down)

It is sad to see groups spool out as they end their productive time as performers. Some vintage entertainers, of course, remain fresh and still produce new material, such as Neil Young, whose new works are still towering. Others, notably Santana, have reinvented themselves in very good ways and use many young new band members to replace old ones. Dylan's repertoire and that of a few others such as Paul Simon are so deep that even the old works are being re-envisioned and often sound fresh. Especially some of them who tour regularly have stayed productive and popular, even if their new work is not that of the older selves—CSN and a number of others fit this bill. Some have begun to sing in different registers and to slip in and out of amped up productions, such as McCartney.

But watching Fleetwood Mac on the Today Show this morning was just sad—they have played without Christine McVie for many years, and if this embarrassing performance of Little Lies is any indication, she no longer has her A game (or even an acceptable B game). Note the difference with Stevie Nicks, whose voice was always on the verge of breaking, and who remains exceptional and interesting.

This afternoon, Rolling Stone had a piece on the “final” round of Pink Floyd and their last album together, and although the earlier version had the imbedded music, it has been taken down and so we will have to wait for the final verdict. I will go see them, if they come, because both Gilmour and Waters have continued to tour, and I have heard them both in the last 2-3 years, and they are still in very good form. (Both say no way.) They do miss Rick Wright, who died several years ago, but Waters and Gilmour were the two most extraordinary talents in the group. (Syd Barrett, the founder, was also extremely talented, but became mentally unstable, and left the group many years ago. He has also died.)

I do not know what the cutoff should be—I still want to hear Brian Wilson, even though he cannot hit all the old marks—his new tours are well-produced, and he still has an affecting voice, if not his vibrant old voice. And it was very life-affirming to see Glen Campbell tour one last time, even if Alzheimer’s has robbed him of his memory, as he was still in the game and his voice was interesting. But McVie is flat and no longer the nuanced and gorgeous vocal counterpart to Nicks. And it is just sad, as they start a tour.

All of you Posse members can fill in your own examples. I am not saying all this well, as I am confused by it and by the enthusiasm everyone is showing for the reassembled Fleetwood Mac. And maybe she will get better as they get tighter and into the tour. But it is not a promising reunion, if today's performance was any indication.