

Michael's Rock and Roll Posse--Brian Wilson (cont.) and God Only Knows

http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/watch-elton-john-dave-grohl-lorde-stevie-wonder-and-more-sing-god-only-knows-20141007?utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=daily&utm_campaign=100814_16&utm_medium=email&ea=bW9saXZhc0B1aC5lZHU

Of course—I just had a chance to read my most recent daily RS.com, which has this wonderful piece that I pass on to my Posse members. Just as I mentioned Brian Wilson and his somewhat tattered voice in this morning's posting, here comes a glorious group cover of one of his most beautiful songs, the sublime God Only Knows, with the overlapping chorus at the end that brings tears to your eyes, it is so beautiful and poetic. It also turns out it is very orchestral, and here is a BBC version with all the usual suspects, including Brian himself. I love the various snippets, and the song (considered by Paul McCartney to be the most beautiful pop song ever written) is rendered timeless.

Whenever I think of Brian Wilson, whom I saw about half a dozen times over the years with the Beach Boys and once on his own, I think of the tale he told about Surfin' Safari, his great and first hit (from 1962, showing just how long he has been at it), and how he was driving on PCH and heard it for the first time on his car radio. He had to pull over, he was so moved, and he started crying. I had a similar experience this summer when I was driving in Santa Fe, NM and heard my show (The Law of Rock and Roll) on the car radio, and I pulled over to savor it. Like him, I was also so moved I started crying—thinking of how hard I worked to bring those thoughts to life and how lucky I was to have the opportunity to do so. The only time that had ever happened to me was when I heard the piano solo and guitar solo at the end of Layla one time, and it just struck me so much that I was moved to tears while driving in Houston, near the old Summit.

The best rock and roll songs, opera, orchestral music are primordial and strike us at such deep, ineffable levels that it is almost scary. In any event, listen to this and think of just how wonderful it is that we have access to such artistry.

At 63, still one lucky boy,

Michael