

- <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/18/arts/music/johnny-winter-dies-at-70-virtuosic-blues-guitarist.html?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3A%2C%7B%221%22%3A%22RI%3A9%22%7D> (RIP Johnny Winter)

Last night, Tina and I opened our 2014 school year and our reintroduction in the Houston concert scene with Crosby, Stills & Nash (CSN), who performed at the Houston Bayou Music Center, near our favorite commercial movie theater (Sundance) and our favorite sushi restaurant. By my count, I have seen them 6 times, most recently two or three years ago in the Sandia Pueblo Casino Amphitheatre in Albuquerque, a concert I remember well for the windy but cool weather and the great seats and great music. It hit 100 degrees in Houston yesterday, but we had great seats and great music once again. Because I belong to their fan club, I get early shots at CSN tickets and it paid off last night—we were in the front row, and Stephen Stills play about 10 feet from us all night, except when he got closer. (See the photo, above.) And they still dip into one of the great repertoires of all the 1960s-1970s bands, as they did last night: all classics except about 6 new songs and one Stills cover of Dylan's 1963 "Girl from the North Country." BTW, I had not

known Stills spent his childhood in Houston, but he said so and gave some childhood memories of life in Houston before his family moved to Dallas.

In 1969, Crosby, Stills & Nash was the record I wore thin, and in 1970 it was Déjà Vu, with CSN and Young. They are still hitting those wonderful harmonies, and their backing band is even tighter than I had remembered. There is not much else to say, as anything else I can muster is simply awe and gratitude. But they have been together in one form or another for 45 years as a group, and all of them played in other wonderful and successful groups before then. (Even including the Mynah Birds, with Rick James, Stills, and Young.) CSNY is the only group where all the major players—there have been some intermittent members, such as Bruce Palmer and Dallas Taylor, but the core three and with Neil Young, the core four—have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a group and all of them individually as well: Buffalo Springfield (SS and NY), the Byrds (DC) and the Hollies (GN). Even the Beatles only hit it twice with three of their members (sorry, Ringo).

Concerts coming up: Aretha and Marc Anthony, and others not yet scheduled. Life is good, and my second year of The Law of Rock and Roll rolls out as well, the Friday after Labor Day.

Details very soon, when I sign the contract for the website and server.

Welcome back to school, everyone,

Michael