

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/28/arts/music/kate-bush-returns-to-the-stage-and-her-fans-are-there-to-welcome-her.html?emc=edit_th_20140828&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=18983381 (Kate Bush returns)

One of the interesting things about the life cycles of recording artists is that almost all of them tour and perform their new works, the time-honored way of getting word out to their fans. In concerts, as with CSN on Monday night, they play the older classic songs and work the new ones in, knowing that the crowd wants to hear both, but especially the ones we know and love by heart, and can sing along. The monster acts have vast pools of songs, especially the prolific entertainers whose output is so remarkable and deep. Dylan, Van, Steely Dan, McCartney, Neil Young, Paul Simon, Prince, the Beach Boys, Aretha, Bruce, and the other superstars could play for days and not exhaust their repertoire—and we would know most of the songs. Then, some of them disappear, sometimes before they have even peaked. This, after showing such early brilliance and promise with fresh music.

So when active and young entertainers take time off, for whatever reason, it is notable, and when they start up again, we

are enormously grateful. Here, I speak of Sixto (Sugar Man) Rodriguez, who fell off the face of the earth until recently, after his wonderful first two albums in 1970 and 1971; Cat Stevens/a/k/a Yusuf Islam, who has played intermittently over the last 20 years, but who does not tour anymore; Linda Ronstadt, whose Parkinson's has caused her to opt out; Damien Rice, who after several extraordinary records is hiding out in Ireland—and, I hope, working on another glorious album; and, as the NYT article today notes, Kate Bush, who has not played publicly for almost 15 years. If you do not know her work, go to YouTube and find any number of songs. Welcome back, Kate, and please come to New Mexico or Houston, if you would. There are more out the MIA or in Witness Protection, but these are the ones I have missed the most. Come back—we hardly know you.

Have a good school year,
Michael