

## D082.ed **HEADING OUT FOR THE OLD EAST COAST AGAIN**

Dylan / Simon, Bob's best band (if we were only allowed one, this would definitely be it), nine songs, seven acoustic, mostly excellent video and audio - where to start?

**AUDIO** Main gripe is a distracting bass rumble that intrudes intermittently through No Lie and T Man. Might be wind on the mike but sounds more like fabric friction. Thankfully disappears from Des Row on, though a few partial drop-outs mar that song too. Otherwise fine.

**VIDEO** Left-centre raised position film, 100% obstruction free, always on target, showing plenty of everybody, good camera control, clean colourful pics, as here:



Slight tendency to frame a shade low, so that the heads bump against and occasionally pass through the top of the screen. But if all videotapers were as capable as this, we'd be in clover.

**PERFORMANCE** We're at the penultimate gig of D / Simon's 1999 US Summer Tour and [D082.ed](#) starts with their 33rd Sound Of Silence (of 34 - the last\* will be tomorrow night at this same venue). I looked those figures up because, after previous more or less uncomfortable journeys ([D127.su](#), [D133.su](#), [D288.su](#)) through Simon's signature tune, an uneasy rapport between the two performers is finally beginning to show, with D's harp break in particular sounding here something like the ticket (though the man himself remains antsy and unreadable as ever). Had they played the song together another 34 times they might almost, you feel, have started to get it down. Or maybe not.

Back with his A-team, though, D entertains with all the easy assurance that faith and familiarity bring. Though Des Row is good, the North Country Girl that follows is not merely better again but exquisite. All band members acquit themselves with distinction (individual contributions made easy to hear by the crystal clear, now A1 audio). As the tune folds, keep your eye on Tony. Even he was impressed. Watchtower in these hands throws off any

pretension of road-weariness, of hoary obsolescence, to shine anew. And, as in [D701.mx1](#)'s closing song when stage invadess Ms Heimdl is lost to view just as Bob sings *Go melt back into the night, babe*, so here too there's irony in the switch from video to stills just seconds into Holly-cover finale Not Fade Away. But a right decision to go with it anyway, for it makes a fitting sign-off to yet another highly satisfying encounter with lost times found (against the odds) again.



**RUNNING TIME** 60:45, nine complete songs - for more from this gig, see [D082.su](#)

**THANKS** Mackem #1, Ace too

**STARS** Minor audio niggles (see above) but little else wrong, thus a high four. Recommended.

\* Though Bob and PS shared a further ten dates in September, none included a duetted Silence. This time around the fans were treated at every show to a two-handed Boxer instead. Surprisingly, only one of those ten performances circulates, and that on dirt-poor [D378](#). Don't those Simon fans know how to work a video cam? Or do they perhaps see D (an acquired taste, to be sure) as so much wasted film? Is there a DVSimon? That there won't be is yet another reminder to us all of just how lucky we are here, and how well-served.

