

**Review of Concert by Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen at the BPACC/Lucy Opry Pickin'  
Picnic on May 3, 2008**

by Betty Westmoreland

As regular as the ticking of the grandfather clock in the hallway, the Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center (BPACC) and the Lucy Opry have once again collaborated on an incredible weekend of music, fun, food and fellowship. And if that weren't enough, the two organizations put their best minds to work in order to find a top-notch bluegrass act to close out the weekend of May 2-3, 2008. BPACC director, Ron Jewell, and Will and Beth Mays, of the Lucy Opry, thought that a couple of well-known California guys could handle it.

CHRIS HILLMAN (formerly of The Byrds [1991 induction into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame], The Flying Burrito Brothers [Gram Parsons, Chris Hillman, Sneaky Pete Kleinow, Chris Ethridge, and Mike Clarke], and The Desert Rose Band [Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, John Jorgenson, Bill Bryson, Jay Dee Maness, and Steve Duncan], among others) headed the group. HERB PEDERSEN (formerly of Country Gazette [Byron Berline, Roger Bush, Billy Ray Latham, and Herb Pedersen], The Dillardards, and The Bluegrass Album Band, also among others) was right there beside his old friend of so many years. Those two certainly did handle it! A sell-out crowd of ardent fans showed up for the performance, perhaps to listen and remember how good the music was "back then". The great news is that the music is just as good—maybe better—now that the wisdom and experience of thirty-plus years has begun to settle in.

Hillman and Pedersen were joined onstage by two of the most capable musicians in the business. MIKE BUB is "the bass player's bass player," and an artist who knows how to make the best sound even better. Bub works without "airs," and often without a net, as the audience noticed when he and Pedersen collaborated on chords for a song which was new to Bub. Pedersen quietly fed Bub key chord information during the song, like, "One-five-four," which FolkBlues.com explains on the 'Net as "Music Theory for the Short Attention Span". Few audience members beyond the third row ever knew that was happening. Google Mike Bub or go to his MySpace page to read up on him.

LARRY PARK is the shy but fabulous guitarist from California, who is the son of the legendary Ray Park. Students of this music know of Ray Park's travels throughout his career with another Californian, Vern Williams. They performed as Vern and Ray, and their music is still popular today. Be sure to Google each performer or simply 'Vern and Ray,' to learn more about them.

So, with Chris Hillman in the lead, these four wonderful, legendary bluegrass artists hit the stage—and they go hard for 90-plus minutes, taking their fans back through the years. . . years spent with the likes of Gram Parsons, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt, Stephen Stills, Bob Dylan, Steve Hill, David Grisman, Emory Gordy, Vince Gill, John Denver, the Bluegrass Album Band, the Dillardards, and more.

**The Show**

1. Undecided (by Steve Hill, released 1991)
2. If I Could Only Win Your Love (by Ira Louvin of the Louvin Brothers; Hillman launched his career with Emmylou Harris on the song)
3. Turn, Turn, Turn (huge hit for The Byrds)
4. No One Else (featured Herb Pedersen)
5. Missing You (by Tom Russell, Richard Sellers, and Chris Hillman)
6. So Begins the Task (by Stephen Stills, on first Manassas [another Hillman band] album)

7. Mr. Tambourine Man (by Bob Dylan, 1964, another huge hit for The Byrds: Roger McGuinn, David Crosby, Gene Clark, and Chris Hillman)
  8. You Ain't Goin' Nowhere (by Bob Dylan)
  9. True He's Gone (by Jim Sullivan, featured Herb Pedersen)
  10. Tu Cancion (by Chris Hillman, his venture into Spanish song lyrics)
  11. A Good Woman's Love (1961-62, when Bill Monroe came out to California and Pedersen heard him)
  12. Good Time Charlie's Got the Blues (The Byrds)
  13. Tried So Hard to Please Her (by Gene Clark of The Byrds and The Flying Burrito Brothers)
  14. Heavenly Grace (by Chris Hillman for his priest, who actually wanted 'Turn, Turn, Turn')
  15. Sin City (by Chris Hillman and Gram Parsons, huge hit for Emmylou Harris)
  16. That's What I Like About the South (by singer, songwriter, jazz musician, comedian, Phil Harris; this jazzy swing tune featured Larry Park)
  17. Heaven Is My Home (by Chris Hillman and Steve Hill)
  18. Wait A Minute (by Herb Pedersen, Alan Jackson recorded it, huge hit for the Seldom Scene, featuring the late John Duffey)
  19. It Doesn't Matter (by Stephen Stills and Chris Hillman, written in 1972)
- Encore: Eight Miles High (by Gene Clark, David Crosby, and Roger McGuinn, of The Byrds)

Suffice it to say that this writer was charmed, delighted, and 22 years old just once more, if only for a couple of hours during the appearance of Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, Mike Bub, and Larry Park. Audience members were flooded with their own memories of another time and place, and we hope to see this amazing ensemble again soon. It was magic!

[www.chrishillman.com](http://www.chrishillman.com)  
[www.herbpedersen.com](http://www.herbpedersen.com)  
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