

GRAMMY U Presents

CONCERT REVIEW: ANBERLIN, THE CRASH KINGS, CIVIL TWILIGHT

BY LISA FUMAGALLI

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On October 23rd Anberlin, The Crash Kings and Civil Twilight rocked to a sold out House Of Blues. The Crash Kings opened the show in Chicago since Civil Twilight had a fly out show earlier that evening. The unique Rock n' Roll sound of the three piece band compiled of a drummer, bassist, and piano, definitely got the crowd' attention.

Their sound was well mixed and even better live than on their recordings. Much of the crowd did not seem familiar with The Crash Kings but they quickly had everyone's attention. Although the band is atypically fronted by brothers Antonio (vocals / Clavinet) and Michael Beliveau (Bass) there was no void of front man like performance. The crowd that knew their song "Mountain Man" eagerly sang along even taking over the "ohhhh." Antonio ended that song in a big way having the crowd echo "I bet she feels it just the same" 3 times and finishing with a big vocal run. But just when you thought The Crash Kings were ending their set they covered "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath utilizing Antonio's whammy bar on his Hohner Clavinet d6.

Civil Twilight took the stage next. Those who were not familiar with them were in for a big surprise especially from their fans. You would think the fans were seeing a 90's boy band the way they screamed for the members. I even overheard someone say, "OMG what if he went to our high school" referring to lead singer Steven McKellar. Considering "twilight" is in park of their band name I can only assume that some fans of the popular vampire series stumbled upon these South African musicians by accident. Their set was mellow and pretty. Steven switched from guitar to piano for quite a few songs and even sang a song in the photo pit. The girls loved it and Steven knew it. The set was pretty but much like a mediocre Coldplay.

Finally it Anberlin was ready to rock. The majority of the sold out crowd was there to see them, which is a big change from last year's House Of Blues show where Anberlin shared the stage with Taking Back Sunday and there were a few hundred tickets left.

They opened the set with "We Owe This to Ourselves (King)" which is a song off of their new album "Dark is the Way Light is a Place." The energy of the band was unbelievable and reminded everyone what was so great about the House Of Blues as the entire floor bounced like the whole room was a trampoline. Anberlin mixed it up a bit and played an older tune "Paper Thin Hymn." When the song "The Unwinding Cable Car" of off their previous album "Cities" the crowd sang along and even took over the chorus at one point. They followed that by playing another older tune "Resistance" and the crowd exploded with excitement just like they did when the band first came out and the whole room was bouncing again. Anberlin closed out their set with their classic radio hit "Feel Good Drag."

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