



Sample Set List including narration excerpts – 2017  
(final set list will be announced from stage and subject to change)

### **California Dreaming – The Mamas & The Papas (1965)**

“...The first song we would like to perform really captures this movement and the elusive dream of California. It was actually written by then NYC based folk singer/songwriter John Phillips and his wife Michelle when they were living in Greenwich Village in 1963. The duo eventually became a foursome with the addition of “Mama” Cass Elliot and Denny Doherty, and moved to LA where the song was recorded and released in Dec 1965. The band, of course, is The Mamas and Papas.”

### **Mr. Tambourine Man – The Byrds (1965)**

“...This song made them stars overnight and gave a young David Crosby a taste for fame. After his initial success with the Byrds, Crosby would put on a cape and drive around town in his new green Porsche which he modified with a VW engine. He was also given the nickname “Lawrence of Laurel Canyon” by his bandmates.”

### **For What Its Worth – Buffalo Springfield (1966)**

“...Stills and Young immediately put a band together and everyone moved into Stills’ manager’s house in the canyon and began rehearsing. They called themselves Buffalo Springfield, a name they took from the side of a steamroller parked on the street. Their first gig was at the Troubadour less than a week later. The success of these early shows helped land Buffalo Springfield the opening gig on the upcoming Byrds tour.”

### **People Are Strange – The Doors (1967)**

“...With the sudden success, Morrison moved into a little apartment in Laurel Canyon on Rothdell Trail across from the Country Store “the store where the creatures meet” as he sang in “Love Street” and invested in a custom-made black leather suit: behold the Lizard King.”

### **Helplessly Hoping – Crosby, Stills, and Nash (1969)**

“...Now, these sorts of spontaneous jam sessions were par for the course in the canyon, however this particular session was special for two reasons; not only was it the first time Crosby, Stills, and Nash jammed together, but Graham, unbeknownst to him, had just walked into his future home.”

### **Big Yellow Taxi – Joni Mitchell (1970)**

“...“Ladies of the Canyon” Mitchell’s third solo album was released in April of 1970 on the Reprise label. This album featured a more pop oriented approach to both Joni’s writing and production; a step away from the sparse, folk production of her debut album. It also featured many piano based songs including her rendition of “Woodstock” which was released by her pals CSNY that same year. Joni explained that this next song was written on her first trip to Hawaii.”

**Sweet Baby James – James Taylor (1970)**

“...In July 1969, Taylor was introduced to the Laurel Canyon scene when he did a six night stand at the Troubadour. Later that year, after recovering from a motorcycle accident which broke both his legs and arms, Taylor moved to LA full time and began work on his second album, Sweet Baby James. Released in 1970, Sweet Baby James thrust Taylor into the spotlight.”

**Too Late – Carole King (1970)**

“...In 1968, after divorcing her husband, King decided to move her two daughters to Laurel Canyon and work on her own material. Released in late 1970, her second solo album Tapestry featured new material as well as reinterpretations of her earlier work. With numerous hit singles Tapestry held the No.1 spot for 15 consecutive weeks, remained on the charts for nearly six years, and has sold over 25 million copies worldwide.”

**You’ve Got A Friend – Carole King (1970)**

“...James apparently first heard Carole perform it live at the Troubadour and ran home to figure it out on the guitar. Both versions were released at the same time and won Grammys for both artists.”

**Doctor My Eyes – Jackson Browne (1972)**

“...Actually, by the time he signed his own deal at the ripe old age of 23 (if you remember, in 69 he was 21), many of his songs had been recorded by other artists. This song was released on his self-titled debut album which featured back ground vocals by Laurel Canyon friends Graham Nash and David Crosby.”

**Sister Golden Hair – America (1975)**

“...For both ‘Holiday’ and ‘Hearts’, America enlisted the production expertise of George Martin, the famed Beatles producer, who, after their break up in 1970, had more time to pursue other projects. This was the first single on Hearts.”

**Old Man – Neil Young (1972)**

“...Released in February 1972, Neil Young’s fourth solo album “Harvest” reflects his more settled personal life. With the huge success of CSNY, he purchased a ranch in the Santa Cruz hills south of San Francisco. This next song was written in honor of the land’s longtime caretaker.”

**Running on Empty – Jackson Browne (1977)**

“...After his second album “For Everyman,” Jackson Browne continued to release albums and tour with his Canyon friends Linda Ronstadt and Joni Mitchell. Recorded mainly on the road and released in 1977, Jackson’s fifth record was his biggest commercial success. Unlike most live releases, this collection featured no songs that were previously released on studio albums. It also featured songs recorded in hotel rooms, on the tour bus and backstage. As such, this album really explores his life on the road.”

**You're No Good – Linda Ronstadt (1974)**

“...Linda Ronstadt was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona where at a young age, she began singing with her brother and sister. At 18, she moved to LA to form The Stone Poney's. After releasing three albums in 1967/68, the band broke up and she began work on her first solo album “Hand Sown ... Home Grown” in 1969 which is considered the first alternative country album by a female recording artist.”

**Hotel California – The Eagles (1976)**

“...Don Henley claims this song is a “song about a journey from innocence to experience. Nothing more.” And maybe that's how it started, but now the song – a song that started as an instrumental demo by Felder and then massaged into a multi-million selling hit by Henley and Frey, now represents something much more than a singular journey of a band, or a Canyon, but the journey of a generation.”

**Encore: Take It Easy – The Eagles (1972)**