[Review of] The Beach Boys in Concert: The Ultimate History of America's Band on Tour and Onstage

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Stebbins (journalist, author of The Beach Boys FAQ, 2011) and Rusten present a year–by–year listing of Beach Boys’ performances covering 1961 to 2012’s reunion tour, Brian Wilson solo tours, and selected solo performances by other band members. All entries include date, venue/city and additional acts; many entries, especially those prior to 1986, include comments on selected songs, set lists, band member variations, special audience members/guests, historical context, and interview excerpts. Post–1986 entries often are limited to date and venue. Interspersed throughout are photographs and images of ticket stubs, posters, and other memorabilia. Each chapter also contains an overview of the band’s history for that year and concludes with corrections to concert references in other works, particularly those in Keith Badman’s The Beach Boys: The Definitive Diary of America’s Greatest Band on Stage and in the Studio (2004)—the only other work that attempts to document the band’s entire performance history. While this volume concludes with a bibliography, it would be greatly enhanced by an analytical index (it has no index) and specific citations (e.g., local newspaper reviews are quoted without full citations). Summing Up: Recommended. General readers.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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