



feedback

CHICK COREA AND JOHN MCLAUGHLIN & THE FIVE PEACE BAND

Pioneer Women's Memorial, Kings Park & Botanic Garden, Perth

15/02/09

Chick Corea and John McLaughlin were just kids really when legendary trumpeter Miles Davis asked them to join his band in the late '60s. That band and their album *Bitches Brew* started a whole new genre of music in the fusion of rock and jazz. Last Sunday night, thanks to the Perth Festival program, we experienced how those kids have grown into masters.

Perhaps Corea and McLaughlin are the perfectly matched pair. Although this past touring year is the first time in 40 years they have played together in a band, it's easy to see and feel how suited they are for each other. When you add Kenny Garret's sax, Christian McBride's double-bass and the power and energy of Brian Blade on drums, the music they made soared in truly inspiring ways.

What struck me as the most important part of the whole night is how five outstanding musicians of this calibre could play so selflessly; how they could have a group that could feature each person and not let any egos get in the way of the group's sound and

expression. The Five Peace Band compositions are not short pieces either. Actually, there were only three songs in the first half of the show. This 'stretching out' is based on and allowing for moods and emotions to filter through the music and out to the audience.

Corea's composition *Hymn To Andromeda* in the second set was the highlight of the evening's performance, the music matching the title in evoking thoughts about the breath and scope of the vastness of space and our universe. The crowd exploded into applause, knowing they had just experienced music of a holy nature on this planet, but also from another world.

The band played one tribute song to Miles, a piece from 1959 off his album *Milestones*. Again, it featured Garret on sax. Then, the end. The encore. And we were off into the night. As I had been back in the '60s when I began listening to Miles and Corea and McLaughlin, and in the '70s when I first heard the Mahavishnu Orchestra live, once again, I was changed.

JOHN 'NEVADA' LUNDEMO