



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2017

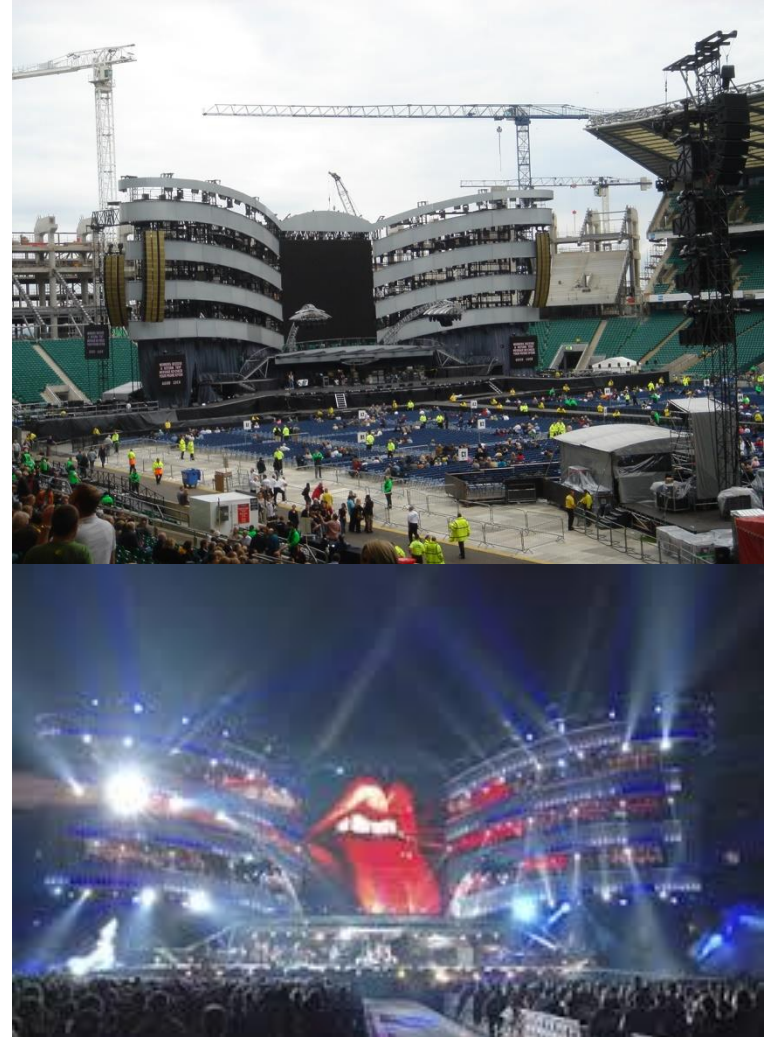
Article 2: A Celebration of Songwriting



...A Celebration of Songwriting

True Story: At a pre-production meeting for a Rolling Stones concert, the Production Manager for the tour told the local support staff, “The music; the performance; that’s not what makes this show. It’s all about the production. I was the venue manager, and I remember thinking, “What arrogance!” But the night of the show, I must admit, he was right.

There was a 4 story backdrop, with lights to rival any Vegas establishment ...



...A Celebration of Songwriting

...a runway thrust into the audience that any Miss America would die to walk, and fireworks for the finale that were as good as any 4th of July show our town had ever seen. Of course the show was a sell-out, but my husband (the songwriter) who could have attended for free, was at home that night. He sat in our living room, a mile and a half from the stadium, and listened to some Guy Clark CDs, quite content.



...A Celebration of Songwriting

Is our mission still worthy? Absolutely! More so now than ever. The music industry celebrates celebrity. The masses seek entertainment. It is the niche of the Kerrville Folk Festival to seek artists whose songwriting nourish us intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally.

And our community celebrates the rare occasion when the masses discover our artists, along with the songs they have written; and we are gratified that we recognized their talent and encouraged them as they honed their artistry.



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Successful festivals tend to coalesce around a central definition. From its inception, the Kerrville Folk Festival has focused on songwriting. It is the artist, the songwriter, who is featured.

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The artists who are tapped to play may play solo, they may bring band members to augment their songs, they may be as entertaining as storytellers as they are songwriters, or they may not speak much at all.

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But rest assured, when you give a Kerrville Folk Festival artist your attention, you will be washed with the power of wordsmithing and poetry framed in melody and rhythm. That is the experience Rod promised, and it is the experience the festival continues today.