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Tickets worth the money?



A Telegraph Column By Mike Morin ⇒ [More Mike Morin Columns](#)
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Is it January yet? No, I don't miss 30-below wind-chill temperatures or having to read 150 school-closing announcements on my radio show.

I miss "American Idol." Auditions for Season 7 start in a few weeks. The search begins anew for singers whose abilities range from William "She Bangs" Hung to Carrie Underwood. Fortunately for Idolholics like me, The Telegraph is qualifying karaoke performers for Telegraph Superstar, our own local search for talented singers. The finals will be held July 28 at Holman Stadium, with yours truly serving as stage emcee for the live finals.

Speaking of the Fox show, I still can't believe tickets to the "American Idol" tour stop at the Verizon Wireless Arena in September set me back a mere \$72.50 each. That's short money in light of concert ticket prices these days. This past January, I paid \$125 to see "Love," the Cirque du Soleil show in Las Vegas.

Does anyone out there remember paying \$1,500 to see Barbra Streisand in Australia eight years ago? Maybe you were the person who paid \$3,883 through StubHub to see Madonna in Miami last summer. Suddenly, I'm feeling pretty good about 70 bucks for "American Idol" in New Hampshire.

Just when did concert prices get out of control? (Here comes the old-fart, good-old-days stories). I'm pretty sure I didn't pay any more than \$3 or \$4 to see Blood Sweat and Tears, my first-ever concert, at the University of Detroit Field House in 1969. A year later, a bespectacled piano player clad in a red, one-piece long-johns outfit, came to my college. It was Elton John's first tour in America, and I doubt I paid \$5 for what I remember to be a great show. Thirty-seven years later, a ticket will set you back \$250 at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas for John's "The Red Piano" show. Red piano sounds a lot sexier than red long johns.

I actually got to hear the announcement "Elvis has left the building" for real, when I saw The King in the Motor City around 1970. I was in the 13th row with free tickets I won on a local radio station. Maybe the best low-dough show I can recall was a 1971 concert featuring Brownsville Station, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Three Dog Night. For about \$5, I sat in the third row. My hearing finally returned by 1974.

And the memories just keep on coming. I recall seeing a concert the night Jimi Hendrix died with a subdued band, maybe The Who, announcing the news to a stunned audience.

Perhaps, like me, you were at the Verizon the night John announced George Harrison's passing, by starting his set with "Funeral for a Friend."

So, if you paid \$70 for the "Idol" visit to Manchester, don't complain. After all, Sanjaya Malakar could be charging \$1,200 for a Vegas ticket in 30 years. Then again, I could be appointed pope tomorrow.

Hear Mike Morin weekdays from 5-10 a.m. on "New Hampshire in the Morning" on 95.7 WZID. Contact him at Heymikey@aol.com.

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