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# 'Do You Believe' Cher is still doing it at 73?

## She rocked the Rock two weeks ago and left her audience in amazement

By Joann Barton  
Special to The Observer

**CHERYLYN SARKISIAN WAS** at the Prudential Center in Newark on Friday May 3.

I call her by her real name because that's how I felt listening to and watching Cher perform. It was an intimate evening not only with the entertainer Cher, but with the person she really is.

She was funny, serious

and lighthearted when she spoke, and it was as if she had known us all for years. In reality, it is we who have known her for decades.

Cher has been the soundtrack of many of our lives for 50+ years and at the age of 73, the tall goddess brought concert-goers back to certain periods of time, one way or another, that night.

For someone who was shy and petrified to perform on stage when she began her

### MUSIC REVIEW

career, she now rules concert venues throughout the country with her "Here We Go Again" tour.

She opened with an Egyptian/Arabic-themed background and sang "Women's World," "Strong Enough" and "Gayatri Mantra." Dressed like a queen, she came out strong. All songs were on point throughout the evening and she never staggered or lost her stamina to finish the show.



Cher performing in an undated photo.

Google Images

After she sang the opening songs, she did about 10 minutes of a monologue, running down the history of her life. That set the tone for the rest of the set list for the night.

The '60s of course she sang the signature "I Got You Babe" and "The Beat Goes On." Who sang Sonny's parts? Well, none other than Sonny himself. On the huge video screens that hovered over and on the sides of the stage, Sonny was there in

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— *Joann Barton*

**CHER from 04**

video, singing his parts and then Cher would sing her parts.

“I Got You Babe” was a touching and heartfelt moment. The audience loved it and also got melancholy at that moment. Sonny also sang along on one of my favorites, “The Beat Goes On.”

I thought after the ‘60s she would follow up with her ‘70s hits. I was disappointed when she didn’t sing “Dark Lady,” “Gypsies,” “Tramps and Thieve and Half Breed.”

Instead, she began to sing a few Abba songs, most likely to promote the movie “Mama Mia” or to change it up a little bit — including “Waterloo,” “SOS” and “Fernando” (which she actually does sing in the movie) were just a few of the Abba hits she sang.

Throughout the show, video montages would play, especially when she was doing one of her umpteen costume changes. But they were few and far between. I loved when she did her Elvis or Chelvis tribute. Cher and most musicians will tell you Elvis was the reason they are doing what they do still to this day. He was a major influence on a large number of musicians. And of course if you know me, I didn’t mind that one bit because I love Elvis. While she was changing costumes, they showed a performance she did a couple of years ago where she donned an Elvis wig and performed “Heartbreak Hotel.”

After sharing with the audience how Elvis affected her career, Cher then sang Marc Cohn’s “Walking in Memphis.” I really enjoyed her rendition. She did a wonderful job and on everything she sang for that matter.

The 90-minute show packed a punch throughout. Other songs sung included “All Or Nothing,” “All I Ever Need Is You,” “Welcome

to Burlesque,” “Lie to Me,” “After All,” “The Shoop Shoop Song,” “Bang Bang,” “I Found Someone,” “If I Could Turn Back Time” and the closer, “Believe.”

I did find that it didn’t feel like an actual concert though. It seemed more like a Vegas show, as if I were watching her residency there — which is great — but if you were expecting a deafening, rowdy concert, that is not what you paid for.

Her five-piece band was great. It sounded as though they were playing to tracks at some points in the show, especially for the bigger numbers and technical ones. There is no way a five-piece band could sound that full in certain songs.

There was a lead guitar player who was great and everyone thought it was her son but I felt she meant to do that. She wanted people to think it was Elijah. Her bass player, keyboard player and drummer were fantastic.

She also had two female background singers.

I heard some people claim she was lip syncing. I can tell you from where I was and from what I could see, she definitely wasn’t. She may have sung along on the larger, techy songs — but it was clearly all her. Of course, the background singers sounded just like her to make Cher’s voice more on point.

But when she sang by herself, it was all Cher.

She was the sexiest 73-year-old I have ever seen. She wasn’t tired, her voice was never out of breath and she strutted across the stage and even did a couple of dance moves.

She was simply amazing.

Brava Cherilyn Sarkissian. It was an absolute pleasure spending the evening with her and I would be happy to do it again. And as long as she continues to look and sound the way she did, she’ll be performing for many, many more years to come.

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