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CAROLE KING & JAMES TAYLOR
SONGS FROM THE 70'S CONTINUALLY SHINING

I was able to catch veteran singer-songwriters Carole King and James Taylor joining together for their Troubadour Reunion Tour at the Budokan on the 14th. The first time the two performed together at the legendary Troubadour Club in LA was in 1970. For this tour, which commemorates the 40th anniversary of that show, they brought along top-notch musicians including the original "Section". Both artists join the band, with Taylor playing his acoustic guitar and King on the piano. When Taylor sang, King served as his pianist, and when King took the vocals, Taylor was her guitarist. Both remained on stage the entire show as musicians. The intimacy between the two old friends was heart warming.

The setlist consisted mainly of songs released by King and Taylor in the early 70's, however in no way did it feel dated. In the days before sampling and drum machines, the natural sound made from a simple configuration of live instruments gently caressing the singer, continues to shine strongly after 40 years. The refined city sound and the idyllic feel interlock perfectly. King and Taylor sang the songs they wrote when they were younger with a deep interpretation only made possible through maturity. Their eloquent emcee and relaxed presence also left a strong impression.

The early 70's when the two artists came into the spotlight, was a time of disillusioned youths trapped in resignation and frustration. The 60's and its passionate revolt against war was a thing of the past. At such a time, King and Taylor's introspective voices permeated deeply into the people's hearts. Today as we constantly find ourselves hitting walls politically, culturally and in many other areas, I feel it is quite symbolic that King and Taylor's voices once again hold such a strong presence.

Kenta Hagiwara

