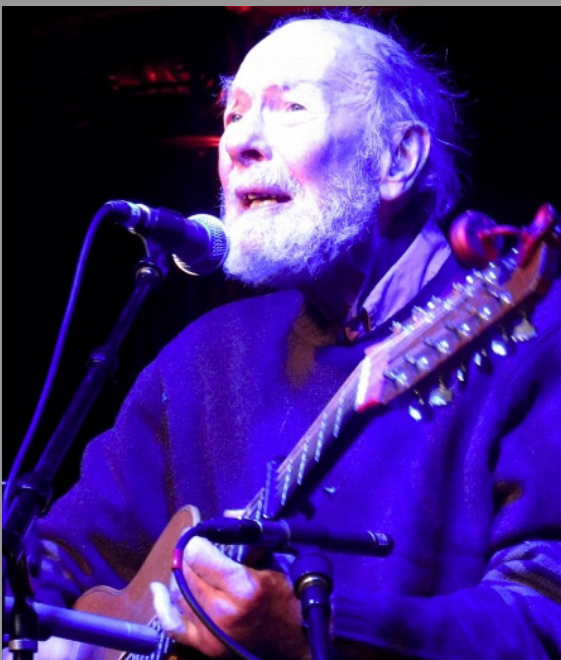


Sandy's Place - Pete Seeger's Last Performance

Anne and I were blessed and privileged to be able to attend Pete Seeger's last public performance in November at the Cutting Room in NY. We go to hear a lot of great live music in NY, and I will be sharing some of these experiences with you in the future. After all, love of music is what got me, as well as many of you, involved in audio. Anne and I love it and spending time in NY lets us indulge to the fullest.

Pete Seeger, who passed away at 94 in January, had his last public performance at the Cutting Room in NYC on November 14th. The Cutting Room is a unique, intimate venue, owned by Chris Noth (you remember, Big, Sarah Jessica Parker's boyfriend on Sex in the City) which was originally located next door to our loft in NY, but moved last year. Luckily I am on their email list, so I was informed about Pete's appearance and, of course, bought tickets immediately. It was actually a WBAI radio station fundraiser. WBAI is a non-profit radio station which was, back in the 60s, one of the first underground radio stations. It was a no reserved seat event, so Anne and I got there a good hour early to wait in line outside in the cold, in order to get a great seat, which we did as you can see by my photos.

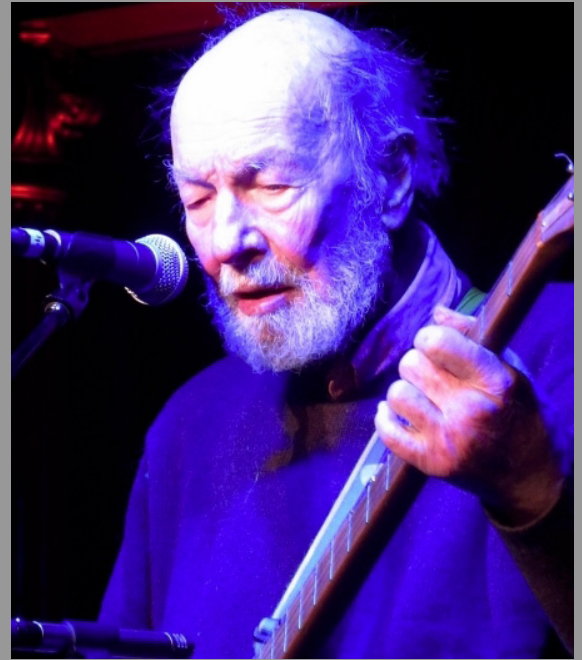


Pete Seeger, of course, was one of America's great musical treasures. He was one of the original Weavers, a seminal folk group, and continued in the tradition of his great friend Woody Guthrie (Arlo's father). Pete was an important participant in the anti-war and protest movements, actually dating back to the 40s and 50s. In fact, he battled McCarthyism and was blackballed by the House Un-American Activities Commission in the 50s as a member of the Weavers.

Well, back to the concert. When we got in the front door, we hurriedly ran to get a good seat, which was two tables from the stage. The opening acts were ethnic and folk based, with several performers whom we had never heard, but were excellent. Then Pete came up on stage, very slowly as he was very frail. The greeting and applause from the crowd was almost deafening, and it brought a

big smile to Pete, who seemed rather shy. He played both banjo and guitar, beginning his set with his friend, Woody Guthrie's classic "*This Land is Your Land*". Needless to say, chills ran down my spine along with probably everyone else's. He continued on with his great classic compositions, "*Where Have All the Flowers Gone*", "*If I Had a Hammer*", "*Turn, Turn, Turn*" along with others, and the audience joined in true hootenanny sing along style.

When he finished, to tumultuous standing ovations, he was helped to slowly leave the stage. Little did we know that just over two months later, he would pass on to the next stage in his journey, leaving this world a richer and more tuneful place. I have actually been spending a lot of time with his [Pete Seeger Live at Carnegie Hall](#) double album from the 50s. When my daughter heard it here over the holidays, she fell in love with it.



And I was using his performance of Tom Paxton's Ramblin' Boy as a demo at the recent CES, to show off the new Triton One. Interestingly, his performance was so moving that when I played it for Absolute Sound reviewer Jonathan Valin, he made me stop before the end. I asked him why and he said, "I can't bear to listen to him sing about the Ramblin' Boy's death". So moving were Pete Seeger's performances; and his life was as well.

All trademarks are property of their respective owners. All opinions are those of the GoldenEar editorial staff and based upon 45 years of audio industry experience.