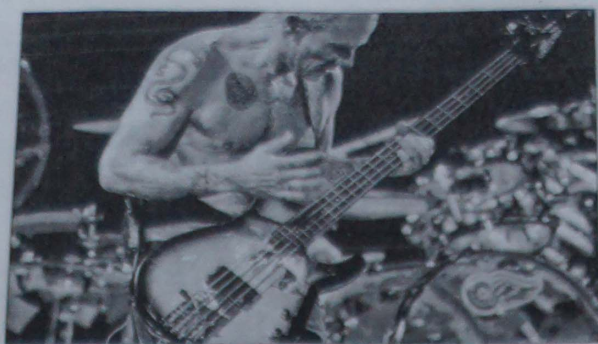


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Bass player Flea plays to the crowd during the Red Hot Chili Peppers' concert. MARK BYRON/SPECIAL TO THE ENQUIRER

## Red Hot Chili Peppers play fun, energetic Arena show

By Garin Pirnia  
Enquirer contributor

### CONCERT REVIEW

Unlike Radiohead, who performed Tuesday night at Riverbend Music Center, the Red Hot Chili Peppers had played Cincinnati several times – but not since 2006. On Wednesday night they brought their almost two-hour set to U.S. Bank Arena and played for thousands of fans, including a surprising number of youngsters who were barely born when the Peppers were at the zenith of their popularity in the '90s.

The recent inductees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame keep reinventing themselves with new guitar players and new albums like last year's "Californication"-era throwback "I'm With You." Even though lead singer Anthony Kiedis and loquacious bass player Flea are pushing 50, they're in great shape. Kiedis jogged around the stage with boundless energy even though he was still recovering from foot surgery.

Drummer Chad Smith played his drum kit to a gaited beat, and then a shirtless Flea came out and did some stretches before the group played "Monarchy of Roses" from "I'm With You." New guitarist Josh Klinghoffer jammed along with Flea. The music built up until it burst with the chorus from "Can't Stop." Immediately recognizing the hit, the crowd lit up their cellphones and sang along.

"Bootsy and Pat Collins are national treasures," Flea stated to the crowd, paying tribute to one of the band's many influences and our city's hometown heroes. The band played a couple of other new songs including "The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie" and "Factory of Faith," but most of their set highlighted new and old classics like "Hard to Concentrate," "Throw Away Your Television," "Dani California," "Scar Tissue" and "Californication." (They did skip "Higher Ground.")

Even though the band has matured and doesn't perform with tube socks on their nether regions anymore, they have remained pretty frank. Flea announced that he needed to take a bathroom break, and he ran offstage to take care of business. When he returned, he mentioned that the Chili Peppers played a local transvestite club in 1984. "I'd like to give a shout out to all of the beautiful transvestites in Cincinnati!" Flea yelled to the audience.

After the break, they brought up Bootsy again and sang a verse from Funkadelic's "Be My Beach." Then it was time for the Chili Peppers' most beloved song, "Under the Bridge" from "Blood Sugar Sex Magik." The crowd squealed with excitement while Klinghoffer kneeled and played his guitar to a lone spotlight until his bandmates joined him.

The band ended its regular set with the cacophonous "By the Way" and then came back for an encore. To show their team spirit, they changed clothes, donning Reds paraphernalia. Flea was the only member dressed in full uniform, and Kiedis told him he looked like Pete Rose. Flea responded with, "Let Pete Rose back into baseball! He's one of the greatest baseball players." The crowd cheered in agreement.

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