

## Concert to remember for a lifetime: The angelic side of Prince.



Audio Evaluator, Warren, looks back on one of his many Minneapolis concert experiences:

Back in the free-spirited magical early 1980s Prince would occasionally play unannounced at First Avenue, the premier rock venue in Minneapolis.

These concerts were not known to the general public. Often the lucky connected few in town would hear of them the same day through friends or friends of friends who DJ'd at or frequented the club. A word of mouth thing that spread like a prairie fire across town, as there was no Internet then. And the unlucky many would hear all about the music party that went down by the very next day.

I was lucky enough to have attended a handful of these dates (thanks to a friend, Kevin Cole, who DJ'd there) and Prince was at his peak of creative energy which he shared freely with his hometown friends. Although all of these impromptu concerts were electric and will be treasured especially in light of what has transpired in the last year, one such event stood out from the rest and pegged my emotional meter.

As we all milled about the club one evening on the strong rumor he would play, the lights dimmed completely and Prince came out and simply sat at a Fender Rhodes piano all alone, bathed in a solitary white pin spotlight. The place was hushed with great expectation as he proceeded to hold court and everyone there in the palm of his hand for the next hour or so. Playing one gospel song after another with such love and soaring reverence, like some possessed preacher man. It was all so achingly, spiritually exquisite what went down that night. Vulnerable, tender and raw. From that deep inner growling to majestic falsetto, he laid bare his soul and invited us to come journey with him. Everyone knew this was an inspired one-off frozen moment in time to be seared in our heads, never to be repeated. An impromptu church service of sorts. For eternity.

You can bet Brother Prince is singing like that now with all the angels in heaven.