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## 5 Seconds of Summer Concert Review

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## 5 Seconds of Summer in Stockholm

By Johanna Stjernström

5 Seconds of Summer, a popular pop rock band from Australia, came back to Stockholm on November 10th, 2018 to perform their second concert in Sweden that year, this time in the Fryshuset Arena for their *Meet You There* tour. The members of the band are Luke Hemmings on guitar and lead vocals, Calum Hood on bass, Ashton Irwin on drums, and Michael Clifford on guitar. The first concert they had in Sweden that year was in a very small venue called Debaser back in March, which was the first stop on their tour *5SOS3* where they played all the new songs off their then upcoming album *Youngblood*. Since the songs were not released at the time, and it was the first stop of the tour, no one had ever heard the songs before. This was a really interesting experience since the fans couldn't sing along to the songs, so you could actually hear just the band playing, which is super unusual for such a popular group!

This time was completely different though - the album had been out for five months, everybody knew all of the songs by heart, and the venue was much bigger than Debaser. Fryshuset is a youth foundation that arranges concerts in their venue, Fryshuset Arena. They built the stage on a basketball court inside the youth center. I personally did not like the venue since it felt like it was targeted towards a very young audience. The place screamed youth center, for example they only sold sodas, candy, and non-alcoholic beers. There were also basketball hoops and court lines on the floor. Aside from that, the atmosphere among the audience was great and everyone was really excited to see 5 Seconds of Summer playing their new music. The supporting act was Lovelytheband, an indie pop trio from Los Angeles. In my opinion they were the perfect band to start the show, since their music was pretty similar to 5 Seconds of Summer's, which prepared the audience with the right energy for the main act. Lovelytheband had a great mix of their own songs

and some covers like “Mr. Brightside” by The Killers, that everyone could sing along to. One thing that I found really interesting was that in between the supporting act and 5 Seconds of Summer’s set, they played “Empty Wallets” over the speakers, which is a song from 5 Seconds of Summer's new album that wasn’t on the band’s setlist. I can’t remember a time when a band has played their own music in the speaker system before a show, but it was really effective because the audience obviously loved it and got even more psyched to see the headliner!

The concert started with different music playing almost mysteriously before 5 Seconds of Summer entered the scene. The intro built up the excitement in the venue, and the crowd started jumping and screaming before they even saw the band. Finally, they started to play their song “Babylon” which I thought was the perfect song to start off the concert with. The song is from their new album *Youngblood*, and is really powerful, putting the audience in the right mood for the rest of the night. The whole set list was:

*Babylon*

*Talk Fast*

*Moving Along*

*She's Kinda Hot*

*Waste the Night*

*More*

*Better Man*

*If Walls Could Talk*

*Ghost of You*

*Amnesia*

*The Only Reason*

*Lie to Me*

*Why Won't You Love Me*

*Valentine*

*Meet You There*

*Jet Black Heart*

*Want You Back*

**Encore:**

*She Looks So Perfect*

*Youngblood*

The two following songs, “Talk Fast” and “Moving Along,” were also from *Youngblood* which maintained the high energy since these songs also have a quick tempo. After those three new songs, they continued with two older songs from their previous album, *Sounds Good Feels Good*, which made a lot of fans happy since it is typically appreciated when bands perform a mix of both new and old songs when they play live. Most of the songs sounded similar to the recorded version as they did live, with some exceptions. For example, the song “Ghost of You” started with Luke Hemmings alone on the stage playing the piano with a single spotlight on him. The slower song contributed to the dynamics of the concert since all of the previous songs were upbeat. The band performed a series of slow songs after “Ghost of You,” such as “Amnesia,” “The Only Reason,” “Lie to Me,” and “Why Won't You Love Me.” It was clear that they wanted to make the slow tempo songs a bit more interesting than the recorded versions. Just like in “Ghost of You,” “Lie to Me” started with Luke alone on the stage with the piano, singing the first verse beautifully

and vulnerably. One of my favorite parts of the concert was the intro to “The Only Reason,” this time with Michael Clifford alone on stage. He sang the whole first verse without any instruments, but there was a really cool robot-like reverb effect on his mic. The only light on stage was one bright, blue backlight behind him which helped make the performance powerful and memorable. After the slow section, they returned to playing some upbeat songs for the final part of the concert. The song “Meet You There” was cut short and entirely instrumental, so you got to see their musicality, and they got the audience to jump to the music and get really pumped up for the final songs.

After the song “Want You Back,” the first single off their newest album, they exited the stage, but the audience knew the show wasn’t over and began chanting. It took a while, but of course, 5 Seconds of Summer came back for an encore and played their biggest hit “She Looks So Perfect” which was the song everyone knew they would play and had been waiting for. It’s a fun song to hear live and the first chord alone makes the audience freak out and jump. Their final song was the biggest hit from their latest album, the title track “Youngblood.” In my opinion, that was the perfect song to end the concert on. The song was extremely popular during the summer, and both new and old fans love it!

The band interacted a lot with the audience throughout the concert. They talked about how they played basketball in the arena before the show and even threw some basketballs out into the audience. They also frequently let the audience sing the choruses and intros to songs alone, which really works at a concert like this with so many hardcore fans that know the lyrics to every song. I really appreciated that they had a mix of both new and old songs, because even if the new album is amazing, you still want to hear some old favorites as well. It was a bummer though that they didn’t play my favorite song to hear live – “Don’t Stop.” That made me a bit disappointed. The show

wasn't a huge production, it was just them playing their instruments and singing the songs. Since they do play their own instruments, they didn't need to do much more to keep the audience entertained. There was no backdrop or any screens, but they did have some strip lights along the back of the stage which was simple, but it worked. The fans left satisfied and wanting more. In my opinion, the ticket price of 455 SEK (about \$48 US) was certainly worth it!