



Shawn Colvin:  
bonding with  
spirit of Joni.

## Shawn Colvin

★★★★

Live NEWSLICK

Smalltown mid-Westerner attaining greater heights of elegance with each year.



She blew in from Vermillion, South Dakota, via London, Ontario,

Carbondale, Illinois, Austin, Texas, and other points west and east, working her way from hard rock – hence an in-crowd shout for “Free Bird!” during this club show in San Francisco (another old hometown) – towards the weathered yet also pristine solo performer she has become, at 53. Playing acoustic guitar with a dazzling, quiet intricacy, she sings the articulate, lucid best of her back-catalogue, such as Polaroids: “But the vows that we never keep/From bedroom to business-speak/Make me remember how cheap/Words can be”. *Live* finds her bonding even more with the sound and spirit of Joni Mitchell circa *Clouds* and *Blue*, and she emulates her inspiration’s soarings, tremors and oddly appealing nasal resonances to a personal account of the ultra-American, and lonesome, pursuit of transcendence.

*Phil Sutcliffe*