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## THE QUIET CORNER: SPRING 2010

By Robert Barry Francos

**MARTY BALIN** does not get appreciated enough as a driving force for what became the San Francisco sound in the '60s. As an original member of Jefferson Airplane and its less progressive Starship, Balin set the ball rollin' way back. He's been doing his own thing along the way, and is still kicking, as is seen on this DVD, "Live at the Boston Esplanade: June 14, 2008" (DVD, 150 min; MVDvisual.com). Still in good voice with a wicked guitar, Balin struts his stuff, with the huge audience singing along. Lots of good hits here from throughout his career, such as "Miracles," and of course the Airplane hits with Boston legend Didi Stewart slickly filling in ably for Grace. And oh, there's so much more as extras on this. There are three clips from DVD producer Joe Viglione's cable access show, "Visual Radio," including a 50 minute one-camera interview with Balin from 1995. While there are parts that could have been edited out, it's still quite interesting as Balin talks about hanging out with Joplin just days before her death as she played him what would be the "Pearl" album, for example. Additional shorter clips include interviews with other Airplane experts, including writer Jeff Tamarkin (his book on Jefferson A, the first about the band, is a great read), and with Airplane's pre-Slick lead singer, Signe Anderson. There are also some other rare live performances thrown in. A keeper.