

Silver Music Studios

September, 2008

Tips on Getting Gigs

Many of you currently perform or wish to. Here are some general guidelines for booking yourself or your band.

There are several avenues for first contact at an establishment that offers live music. Whether you wish to perform at a coffee house, bar/club or country club, these strategies apply:

Phone contact

- Use to get initial info
- Ask: What type and when do they have live music?
- Ask: Who is the contact, and how do they prefer to be contacted?

Email

- You may try this first when available
- This is better to send links to your website for sound bytes/pics
- It also allows you to choose your words more carefully

In person

- Often the most effective
- Puts a human face in front of the booker/manager/owner
- Shows you are willing, where most are not, to make the extra effort
- Buy a drink &/or dinner, depending on the establishment, then ask for the rep. Have a demo handy, but not visible

In all cases, you may need to do an 'audition' night. This is especially common in venues in which you'll be playing original music.

Don't expect to be paid. Honestly, when you have the opportunity to play original music, you will rarely be paid. Have product to sell and make new fans. In cover situations (and often when you're playing your original songs), they may want a CD demo of a few tunes (or a link to your songs on the Internet). Make your demo short. No booker wants to listen to a 20 minute demo -- it should be about 8 - 12 minutes max. Include 4-5 tunes that offer a nice range of your material or material you cover. If covers, they

should be snippets of the tunes you include, no more than 2 minutes each. If original, full tunes are fine, but only include 3, unless you submit a full CD or EP. In those cases, you may wish to draw their attention to the best 2-3 tracks.

Finally, tell all of your friends about your gig. A good turn out increases your chances of getting invited back. Don't be bashful!

Good luck, stay patient and be persistent!

More useful tips at the Silver Music Studios blog:
<http://blog.silvermusicstudios.com>

Teacher Spotlight - Mitch



Mitch has been with Silver Music Studios for almost 2 years. He brings over 20 years of teaching and performing experience in most styles.

Mitch is equally at pitch with a Mozart Sonata to a Gershwin piece to a Billy Joel ditty. His aptitude at playing translates well into a calm demeanor, professional teaching style and humorous anecdotes.

Learn the ivories with Mitch.

Joke Corner

Definitions:

- **glissando:** a technique adopted by guitar players for difficult runs.
- **preparatory beat:** a threat made to singers, *i.e.*, sing, or else....
- **crescendo:** a reminder to the performer that they have been playing too loudly.
- **conductor:** a musician who is adept at following many people at the same time.
- **vibrato:** used by singers to hide the fact that they are on the wrong pitch.
- **half step:** the pace used by a bassist when carrying their instrument.
- **chromatic scale:** an instrument for weighing that indicates half-pounds.
- **bar line:** a gathering of people, usually among which may be found a musician or two.

- **cadence:** when everybody hopes you're going to stop, but you don't.
- **virtuoso:** a musician with very high morals. (I know one)
- **bass:** the things you run around in softball.

Silver Music Studios Family

Brendan - Guitar
Christine - Piano
Flora - Piano
Jami - Voice
Jessica - Voice
Jon - Bass
Kat - Manager
Lou - Guitar and Bass
Matt - Guitar and Bass
Mike - Guitar and Banjo
Mitch - Piano
Nick - Guitar, Bass and Asst. Manager
Rich - Guitar and Bass
Rob - Bass
Rose - Guitar
Sallie - Piano
Scot - Guitar, Bass and Owner

Top Ten Bassists of all Time (as chosen by our staff)

Scot's top ten

- 1) Tony Levin
- 2) Chris Squire
- 3) Victor Wooten
- 4) Stanley Clarke
- 5) Jeff Berlin
- 6) Geddy Lee
- 7) Stu Hamm
- 8) Jaco
- 9) Muzz Skillings
- 10) Bunny Brunel

Rob's top ten

- 1) James Jamerson
- 2) Jaco
- 3) Victor Wooten
- 4) John Entwistle
- 5) Geddy Lee
- 6) Chris Squire
- 7) Larry Graham
- 8) Bootsie Collins

(Rob's list continued...)

- 9) Stanley Clarke
- 10) Stu Hamm and Steve Harris

Matt's top ten

- 1) Stu Hamm
- 2) Victor Wooten
- 3) Geddy Lee
- 4) John Entwistle
- 5) Chris Squire
- 6) Tony Levin
- 7) John Paul Jones
- 8) John Myung
- 9) Sting
- 10) Paul McCartney

Lou's top ten

- 1) Jaco
- 2) Stanley Clarke
- 3) John Paul Jones

(Lou's list continued...)

- 4) Jack Bruce
- 5) Dave Holland
- 6) Ron Carter
- 7) Tommy Shannon
- 8) James Jamerson
- 9) Jerry Jermott
- 10) Billy Cox

Nick's top ten

- 1) Victor Wooten
- 2) Jaco
- 3) Stanley Clarke
- 4) Steve Bailey
- 5) Billy Sheehan
- 6) Geddy Lee
- 7) John Paul Jones
- 8) Tony Levin
- 9) Paul McCartney
- 10) Marcus Miller