

Silver Music Studios

December, 2009

TIPS ON GETTING GIGS

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

We have 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 premises apply:

Phone contact

Use to get initial info

- What type and when do they have live music
- Who is the contact
- 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 booking representative or food and beverage manager. Have a demo handy, but not visible

In all cases, you may need to do an 'audition' night. This is common with original venues. Don't expect pay. Honestly, in original situations, you will rarely be paid. Have product to sell and make new fans. In cover situations (and original often), they may want a CD demo of a few tunes, if email link to your site was not preferred. 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.

Once you book the gig, get the word out. Let friends and family know. Start a mailing list with emails and spread the good word. Places certainly appreciate a nice crowd and they rarely do much promotion on their end. Good luck and stay patient and persistent. Never lose sight of why you do this.....fame and fortune.....*achem*, I mean for the love of music and performing.

(from the Silver Music Studios blog by Scot Silver 8-08)

Teacher Spotlight: Christie



Christie teacher guitar and bass for Silver Music. She comes to us from sunny Florida and embodies brightness wherever she glows, I mean goes. Christie shall infuse your fingers with musicality and your mind with musicology. Her patience, enthusiasm and knowledge translates to all ages and styles. Christie is quite the avid player as well. A recent Martin strings sponsor, she is not to be missed live. You may check out her site at www.myspace.com/christieleneemusic.

Joke Corner

When requesting a song for a live cover band to play, here are a few tips as to what we just love. {Note strong sarcasm}

- Ask for a tune not remotely close to the genre the band has been playing in. i.e. Why not ask a country band for a Slayer song or an oldies act for a Taylor Swift hit. They'll love that.
- Sing or better yet, hum the tune you want played in the ear of a bandmate whilst they are in the middle of performing a song. Singers particularly like this since they are trying to remember their own lyrics. Hearing your conflicting melody and jumbled words provides a nice challenge.
- Bands love to have people use their equipment, so if they don't know the song you asked for, I am sure they would be happy to have you play it on their instrument or sing it for the crowd in their mic. And if singing, please be sure to be extra loud, slurring and off-key.

Silver Music Studios Family

Christie - Guitar, Bass
Christine - Piano
Dylan - Guitar
Flora - Piano
Jami - Voice
Kam - Bass, Guitar
Kat - Manager
Lou -Guitar, Bass
Louise - Piano
Matt - Guitar, Bass
Mike - Guitar; Banjo
Mitch - Piano
Nick - Asst. Manager, Guitar, Bass
Rich - Guitar
Rob - Bass
Sallie - Piano
Scot - Owner, Guitar, Bass

Top Ten Guitar Solos in a Vocal Song

(as chosen by our staff)

Scot's top ten

1. Bodhissattva - Steely Dan w/Jeff Skunk Baxter
2. Shapes of things - Gary Moore
3. Stone in love - Journey w/ Neal Schon
4. Rosanna - Toto w/Steve Lukather
5. So lonely - Charlie Sexton
6. Comfortably Numb - Pink Floyd w/ David Gilmour
7. Ease - Public Image Limited w/ Steve Vai
8. Sultans of swing - Dire Straits w/Mark Knopfler
9. Sweet child o' mine - Guns 'n roses w/ Slash
10. Beat it - Michael Jackson w/ Eddie Van Halen

Nick's top ten

1. Rock you like a hurricane - Scorpions w/Mathias Jabs
2. Whole Lotta love - Led Zeppelin w/Jimmy Page
3. Texas Flood - Stevie Ray Vaughn
4. Cocaine - Eric Clapton
5. Stairway to Heaven - Led

Zeppelin w/Jimmy Page

6. You shook me all night long - AC/DC w/Angus Young
7. Shapes of things - Gary Moore
8. Still got the blues - Gary Moore
9. Over the mountain - Ozzy w/ Randy Rhoads
- 10.All along the watchtower - Hendrix

Matt's top ten

1. Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin)w/Jimmy Page
2. Hot for Teacher (Van Halen)
3. Kissing the Shadows (Children of Bodom)w/ Alex Laiho
4. Hitch a Ride (Boston)w/ Tom Scholz
5. Little Fighter (White Lion)w/Vito Bratta
6. Landslide - Live Version (Fleetwood Mac)w/ Lindsey Buckingham
7. Mother (Pink Floyd)w/ David Gilmour

8. Rest in Peace (Extreme)w/ Nuno Bettencourt
9. Silhouettes in Disguise (Kansas)w/Steve Morse
- 10.Metropolis Part I (Dream Theater)w/ John Petrucci

Christie's top ten

1. Comfortably Numb - Pink Floyd w/David Gilmour
2. Shine on you crazy diamond - Pink Floyd
3. Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen w/ Brian May
4. Tripping Billies (Live at Luther College) - Dave Matthews w/ Tim Reynolds
5. Dancing Nancies (Live at Luther College) - Dave Matthews w/ Tim Reynolds
6. Jimi Thing (Live at Luther College) - Dave Matthews w/ Tim Reynolds
7. Galileo - Indigo Girls
8. No Woman, No Cry (Live at the Lyceum) -Bob Marley
9. You Had Time (Canon) -Ani Difranco
10. Evolve (Evolve) - Ani Difranco