

Musicians share talent

Open jam sessions encourage musicians of all ages and genres to perform

BY SARAH MUIR
Staff Reporter

Local musicians are tuning their guitars and gathering to share their musical talent with each other and with audience members.

Circle M Music, a local music store and recording studio on The Square, is starting jam sessions Thursday nights. The informal performances are open and free to everyone, assistant manager BJ Allen said. She said Circle M wants to create a place for people to play music or just enjoy it. Jam sessions are a great opportunity for Truman State students who are looking for something to do during Thursday nights, she said.

"Circle M has been in business for almost 39 years and the thing we keep hearing from people is that there's no place to play, so we wanted to make an awesome place to play available," Allen said.

In addition to providing somewhere for musicians to come and play, Allen said the sessions also are good for musicians to meet other musicians.

She said even for those who are not musically inclined, jam sessions offer a place to enjoy some free music. With today's technology, music is available at your fingertips and because of this, performing is fading, she said, but jam sessions are a way to bring back interest in live performances.

People who are interested in playing can come and sign up each Thursday and be put into a rotation, Allen said. Circle M has a full PA system, amps, a drum kit and a keyboard, so players can bring their instrument of choice and start playing, she said.

Each Thursday has a theme, though everyone is welcome to come to all of the sessions, Allen said. The first Thursday was a blues jam, followed by a country bluegrass jam, a jazz jam and an acoustic singer songwriter jam throughout the month, Allen said. The theme nights provide a way to be exposed to different genres, she said.

Circle M Music's first jam session was Nov. 1, Allen said. Six people came to play and there were about 14 audience members, she said. Allen said Circle M got great feedback from customers and on its Facebook page after the jam session.

Kirkville resident Louise Bureus has gone to both the jam sessions so far and said it is a great show and a great place to listen to music. JoAnne Foster, another Kirkville resident and audience member during the country bluegrass jam session, said she heard about it from a friend and enjoyed it the performance.

"You can even come out and dance," she said. "What better way to spend a Thursday night?"

Allen said Circle M would love to have



Anna Grace/Index
Ron Chrisman plays dobro Nov. 8 at the country blues jam at Circle M Music. The jam sessions happen every Thursday evening and are meant to provide performing and networking opportunities for local musicians.

more Truman students come to play or just come to have fun and listen to music.

Throughout the future, Circle M is considering having performance nights, where they hire a band to come play and have a small admission fee, Allen said. The goal is to increase interest and awareness in playing music and to facilitate a love of playing music, she said. For people who are interested in playing but need some help, Circle M also offers lessons, Allen said.

The weekly jam sessions will contin-

ue through the end of April, as long as there are participants, Allen said. She said Circle M will reevaluate when Truman dismisses for the summer.

"[We] may amend the schedule some over the summer, but my hope is it will take off and be one of the things returning students look most forward to when they return for the fall term," she said.

Circle M Music's Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/CircleMMusic. Their jazz jam session tonight will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Students spread spirit

Greek organization carols to spread holiday spirit to hospitals and nursing homes

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
Staff Reporter

As Christmas approaches, one fraternity is trying to cheer up the day for people in Kirksville hospitals and nursing homes through caroling.

Phi Mu Alpha chapters from schools throughout Missouri will come to Truman State for the annual Province Workshop Nov. 17 to 19. While fraternity business will be discussed, so will sharing the gift of music through caroling, said junior Jacob England, Truman Phi Mu Alpha president.

"This is a great way to hang out and get to know members from across the state," England said.

It has been almost 10 years since Truman has hosted the workshop, current Phi Mu Alpha Province Governor John Israel said. Sharing music and caroling with patients is a part of Province Workshops, he said. He said caroling is a part of the Mills Music Mission, which is the fraternity's national philanthropy.

"Our fraternity has a deep belief in the healing power of music and how it can be used for the uplift of mankind," he said.

Caroling to those who have few opportunities to hear live music provides them with emotional and spiritual support, according to Phi Mu Alpha's website. Hospital workers report that "those who are exposed to live music eat and sleep better, require less medication, are less quarrelsome, and are all-around better patients," according to the website.

Live music benefits Alzheimer's patients specifically because of its effects on long and short term memory and reality orientation, according to the website, and exposure to live music has a wide range of health benefits including cognitive retraining and improving the mobility in stroke patients.

"In short, music has been observed by health care workers to provide tangible health benefits as well as to influence positive behavioral change," their website states.

For Israel, participation in Phi Mu Alpha is not something that ends after four years. He said he has enjoyed his time in the organization. His belief in the ideals and the experiences that Phi Mu Alpha has given him contribute to this enjoyment, he said.

"Our focus on music has kept me involved for the past 11 years and I truly enjoy serving the province as Governor and witnessing the great projects that our chapters take part in each year," Israel said.

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A limited number of general admission tickets will be available Nov. 12, 2012. Tickets cost \$7 each and will be available at Edna Campbells and the Truman State University Cashiers Window in McClain Hall.

For more information, call 785.4016 or visit the Lyceum website at lyceum.truman.edu.

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