

~Local Music on the Radio~

**Fred Hotchkiss
and**

**That
Sunday
Show**



My first article covering *That Sunday Show* on Magic 101.7 talked mostly about the historical aspects of how the show came into being and its evolution over the last five months. But the story is not complete without a better explanation of the emotional or even spiritual side of what we're up to. I mentioned last time how seeing a local band, Donna The Buffalo, headlining a festival in Rhode Island gave me a wave of pride in my upstate community for nurturing fine musicians into a world-class band. And it gave me pause to reflect on how many other great musicians there are in this area.

I have also observed how certain music raises my spirit either from a down mood to a good mood, or from a good mood to a great mood. And I've thought about why do some types of music do this and others don't? Somewhere along the line I read about quantum physics and how pretty much everything is simply energy vibrating. And there are just about an infinite number of different vibrations humming around out there. Every person you meet is operating at his or her own unique frequency. And so when the Beach Boys sang about getting a good vibration, what they must have really meant is a vibration that is synchronous to their own. This is of course my own little theory and not backed up by any science. But it makes sense to me. It explains why there are so many different types of music that attract different groups of people. And undoubtedly there are cultural influences on what our preferences end up as, although I didn't grow up with zydeco or reggae music but they sure get my toe to tapping.

After having the privilege of seeing so many musicians performing at very close quarters, I am now developing a corollary to my theory. The closer to the source you are the more effect the synchronous vibrations have on your mood. By way of explanation, let me draw a parallel between the sense of taste and the vibration of music. The fresher the food, the stronger the taste. If you agree, then it's not much of a stretch to accept that the closer to the source of the vibration (music), the stronger the vibration. So you still shake and dance to your favorite CDs; to extend the metaphor, recording music is like freezing food. In my opinion, a little something is lost at the moment of crystallization, and then a gradual degradation takes place over a long period of time.

(continued on page 11)

**The Local Scene
with**

Ozone in the AM

Greetings fellow Zoners! I caught some really awesome live bands since we chatted a month ago... I hope you have as well. If not, why not? Please get out and support live local music here in the Southern Tier and surrounding areas!

This month's featured Ozone band is **MOBDAY**. In the band are Jordan Greene axe/vox, Ryan Nickerson lead vox, Alex O'Connor on bass/vox, and the backbone of the band Ty Gleason on drums. Holy s**t, what a lineup. I had a chance to do an in-studio interview before I got to see them live. Just from the interview though, I could feel the natural flow of positive energy. If your band ain't got chemistry, you're in a world of hurt. **MOBDAY** has chemistry going on for them, with one goal in mind... the success of the band **MOBDAY**!

We all know what a long road it can be to make a successful live band; there are SOOO many components involved. Well, **MOBDAY** has all of the key components! **MOBDAY** live did NOT disappoint. They came rippin' right out of the gate!

All are excellent at their particular "craft." Jordan on guitar has an absolutely gorgeous Tele that he told me was from the custom shop. His mastery of the pedals was phenomenal! In one tune the Tele had a real spacey sound. There was one part where his axe had a distortion/phase effect. I can tell you his guitar sound was impeccable, which can be hard with just guitar, bass, and drums doing the music portion of a band situation. The sound was really full, with an absolute rip-your-face-off guitar tone. Jordan on vox was awesome too; he could totally sing lead if he wanted to.

He doesn't need to. Ryan on lead vox... WOW. He can go from a melodic harmony vocal line to that guttural scream in zero seconds flat. There is no way a normal person could sing a **MOBDAY** set like Ryan without completely blowing out their voice. I know my voice would be gone in one song. You all know that vocals are an instrument... right?! Don't ever think otherwise. Ryan has been blessed by the vocal Gods, and I'm thankful that he shares his vocal expertise with us down in the trenches.

Alex on bass/vox... I do tinker at bass guitar so I take notes whenever I can. I came away from the **MOBDAY** gig with a fat pad 'o notes! The energy Alex puts out on stage... unmeasurable in my book. He was all over the place while playing. I never cared for people that stand in one spot while performing. Alex certainly didn't. It looked to me like he plays a Stingray, and Alex re-affirmed why I want a Stingray. His on-stage sound was as fat as a 500 pounder walking away from an all-you-

(continued on page 14)

MINDFUL MUSIC Tips from Dave Rice



Band vs. Gig

You're 85% sure that your band rocks. You've passed the hurdle of brainwashing your drummer. Things are looking up and many opportunities are arising for your summer! Bars, Barbeques, and Bar Mitzvahs are booked on your calendar. If your band name is something along the lines of Systematic Torture, you'll probably be playing other types of gigs. But at any rate you are ready to go!

Towers of amps, racks and racks of toms, 17 hand-crafted cymbals and 5 custom-made guitars brace the stage awaiting your performance. All 7 people at the bar looked PUMPED. Someone turns off the juke box and your special brand of fusion jazz funk neo-grammati-core suddenly cuts through the awkwardness.

Your first song ends to a mysterious silence.

Every band member played flawlessly. Your drummer even nailed the part where they hit the crash cymbal 148 times in a row as loud as possible. People must not be digging it because they can't hear your voice! Make sure to immediately turn your lead vocals up to the point of feedback... the people in the far back corner of the bar will appreciate the thought. There's nothing better after a hard day of labor than going to your normally peaceful and quiet neighborhood bar to catch up on the latest post-metal scream-o dance-core.

The end of the night comes and to add to the mystery the bar owner seems very unhappy about paying you. They even claim to have "lost" money because of your band and that people "left." While packing up your gear and shamefully exiting, your bass player points out a flier on the wall. Turns out other bands frequently play at the place. The riddle grows deeper!

Here are some tips to solve these puzzles. Regardless of your genre, believe me it applies. The rest of the world has not caught up with the "break-down-all-barriers-melting-pot-of-music mission" so if you want to have a future as an entertainer, listen to what the people want.

Start by stereotyping every local scene and demographic into what they would find socially enjoyable. I know how terrible that sounds, but it's true. The one open-minded person who might like your style when you are off the mark better

make it worth your energy, time and money! Eventually you will tire of your quest to convert every listener. You will grow as a musician when you accept that people have different tastes. One man's brilliant original masterpiece is another man's reincarnated doo-doo.

If someone automatically hates your genre, don't fight with them for it. The truth is there is a scene for almost everything out there. While your punk band is busy offending someone's peaceful evening, a league of intoxicated youth are gearing up for the sixth act at some punk rock festival 30 minutes south. If you think such events are not taking place guess again and look harder. Don't blame your local scene for not having enough of one thing or another. Do what bands do, put your gear into a less than reasonable automobile and play somewhere else. If you don't take chances you will never find that audience who actually wants your band!

On the other end remember that one awesome gig is better for your band than 20 crappy ones. Be patient and invest time into searching for what's out there and where you belong. Don't get stuck in the rut of blaming promoters/venues when you have the choice to seek out new ones.

Dave Rice owns and operates Basement Audio Recording Studio in Binghamton, NY. Please send feedback, questions, suggestions for an article or your own tips to BasementAudio@gmail.com.