

Triangle music clubs rock with variety

From staff reports

Because the music scene of Chapel Hill and the rest of the Triangle offers such a variety of styles, almost every music lover can find a place to listen to his favorite music.

Music in Chapel Hill begins with Cat's Cradle. In February a relocated, roomier Cradle reopened on Franklin Street, about a block from its original location. Five to six nights a week, the all-ages club hosts everything from reggae to blues to acoustic to rock 'n' roll. Local acts like Majosha, the Veldt and Eight or Nine Feet can be found performing here as well as college radio or independent artists.

Some acts that have graced the Cat's Cradle stage in the past year

include the Dead Milkmen and Indigo Girls. The Cradle does an excellent job providing local music fans with various types of music, both house-brand bands and the imported kind. Expect to see all kinds of people at any given show — from screaming middle-aged women to trendy high schoolers.

Other nightspots in Chapel Hill include La Terraza, located above Magdalena's Restaurant, and the Cave. Both places cater to local music, oftentimes blues, jazz or acoustic. The Cave, as well as the Hardback Cafe, has the added advantage of not forcing spectators to pay a cover charge. Tips for the bands are highly stressed, however, when a collection plate/hat/thing is passed

during shows. Skylight Exchange and the Columbia Street Bakery also have regular evening folk, anti-folk or progressive folk shows.

The ArtsCenter in Carrboro holds an assortment of music shows. This past year the Feelies as well as reggae giants, the Mighty Diamonds, played at the Center, as well as the musical "Beatlemania." Students enjoy special discounts on ticket prices.

Other local clubs include the Brewery and the Rialto in Raleigh and Under the Street in Durham. The Brewery concentrates on showcasing local talent since the Raleigh Rialto has opened.

The Rialto is a spacious theater that offers concerts from big names

like Robyn Hitchcock and the Egyptians, Edie Brickell and New Bohemians and Thomas Dolby. In addition, the theater provides an alternative to run-of-the-mill theaters by showing low-budget and cult film classics, and is the only theater in the area still showing "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," often accompanied by the live stage act.

The Brewery and Under the Street have had their share of national acts as well, like Mojo Nixon and Junior Walker and the All-Stars.

Country music fans have Raleigh's Longbranch Saloon, a private club, if they get desperate enough. Beach music fans can hit The Embers' Lounge, also in Raleigh, and shag all night long.

Classical music fans are content with the variety of music offered through UNC's own Department of Music, which holds concerts in Person Hall on the UNC campus.

Artists who can draw more people than the Rialto can perform in UNC's Memorial Hall or Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium. Memorial Hall has

hosted Living Colour and Bruce Hornsby and the Range, in addition to lower-key musicians like John Prine and George Winston, while Elvis Costello has played Cameron.

The musical giants play the Smith Center or N.C. State's Carter-Finley Stadium. The Smith Center has hosted such artists as R.E.M, INXS and Pink Floyd, while the long-awaited Who and Rolling Stones tours will hit Carter-Finley's larger venue.

Although the drinking age is 21, most of the music clubs in the area do allow people between 18 and 21 so long as they wear wristbands or sign a pledge agreeing not to purchase alcohol. Cat's Cradle is especially strict on checking ID's — minors get nearly permanent blotches of ink pressed onto their hands to make themselves readily identifiable.

While progressive music seems to bear the brunt of the Triangle music scene, it certainly does not comprise the total sum. Jazz, country, blues, classic rock and, yes, even classical thrive in this area. If you know where to look.

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