

Open Mic Night a good opportunity for fun

by Zack Harding
Arts & Life Editor

If you play an instrument and would like a friendly environment and audience to express yourself, or if you just like to hear music, the Brevard College Open Mic Night is for you.

Every Wednesday from 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. there is an open mic held in the Coltrane underground. You've probably seen Kyle Lo Porto's e-mails and wanted to check it out and just haven't got around to it, but you should. They set up a generous P.A. system with more than adequate vocal and instrument microphones, and though Coltrane may not be an acoustic wonderland, the sound was surprisingly good.

BC Sophomore Chris Casbarro hosted the open mic and played a number of traditional style acoustic guitar songs, switching between some good ol' flat-picking and finger style guitar. For the open mic on January 24th, he was accompanied by Devin Gentry who played guitar and violin excellently (or maybe that was a fiddle). The duo played some great songs including "Don't let your deal go down," a tune often played by Doc Watson.

Later, BC student Hunter Holmes took the floor and played a selection of righteous acoustic blues tunes, including a couple of very well performed slide guitar numbers. Highlight's of Hunter's set including Pink Anderson's "I got mine" as well as the fun and funny "Salty Dog," in which he was helped out by Casbarro on guitar.



Hunter Holmes plays for Open Mic Night

Photo by Zack Harding

Probably the best performance of the night was when Holmes and Casbarro collaborated on Robert Johnson's "Hot Tomales" with Holmes playing a mighty mean kazoo. How often do you get to hear kazoo, especially played well?

Later Casbarro and Gentry played some more songs including Casbarro's original song called "slow and steady." Toward the end of the night an electric bass joined the mix, played by Joey Bellamy, and the whole group began collaborating on some improvised blues tunes.

All in all, not very many people showed up to actually participate in the open mic, though there was a healthy audience for the majority of it. If you can play an instrument or sing, why not come down on a Wednesday night and give it a shot? It's a lot of fun.

Porter Center for Performing Arts UPCOMING EVENTS

Natalie MacMaster, celtic
Thursday, February 8 / 7:30 p.m. / \$25

Cape-Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster is the most dynamic performer in Celtic music today (Boston Herald).

The Brevard Philharmonic
Sunday, February 11 / \$15
Vance Reese, organ soloist, and A. Scott Wood, guest conductor, perform Camille Saint-Saens *Symphony No. 3 (Organ Symphony)*.

BC THEATRE: Christopher Durang's *Beyond Therapy*
February 15-17 / 7:30 p.m.
A hilarious comedy about the ups and downs of life.

Peter Schickele / P.D.Q. Bach
Friday, February 23 / 7:30 p.m. / \$40
A co-presentation of Brevard College & The Brevard Music Center

http://www.brevard.edu/portercenter/artist_series.htm