

music blog – Beer Drinking Acoustic Night at the Utah

By Tiki Houseman, 16-July-2008

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Last night was [The Utah's](#)¹ Beer Drinkin' Accoustic night featuring [Mike Chase](#)², [Schuyler Dean](#)³, and [Foxtails Brigade](#)⁴. On the one hand, it was a difficult night for music lovers because JJ Schultz was playing at El Rio, and then there was GG Tanaka's Open Mic night at Beckett's.

Mike Chase invited me to play with him (he called it the Mystery Train), his old school chum and drummer Kelly, and [Jazzman James Frost Winn](#)⁵.

I was very excited because I'm always happy when playing with fantastic musicians, but at the same time, I was a little scared because I didn't practice with the rest of them, and in fact, had never met Kelly until last night. I was also a little intimidated about playing with James, a trumpet player, because I think he is a musical genius and has a very old soul for being only 18.

(I can remember when I was 18 and I was no where near the level of maturity as him -- I had the emotional depth of a five-year-old, I think, and I think my voice was several decibals -- no atmospheres -- higher. How can one be so grounded at 18? He's very Bohemian and even though I'm waaay to young to have ever met [Jack Kerouac](#), there's something about James that reminds me of him).

Apparently, Mike, Kelly, James and one of James's friends went to the Hilton Hotel to "practice" by commandeering a piano tucked away in a corner near the entrance drivers use. It was very gorilla. They managed to convince the guard that they belonged there and entertain guests for 40 minutes! Lots of chutzpah, those guys. I hope they made some tips!

So I think I did okay for walking in cold and playing for the first time with the boys/men. Mostly blues progressions and my favorite was the Rooster's Coming Home (see Mike's MS page to hear it). Mike describes it as Tupac Shakir meets Dave Croce.

¹ Hotel Utah Saloon, San Francisco – <http://www.thehotelutahsaloon.com>

² Mike Chase – <http://www.myspace.com/mikechasemusic>

³ Schuyler Dean – <http://www.schuylerdean.com> + <http://www.myspace.com/schuylerdean>

⁴ Foxtails Brigade – <http://www.myspace.com/lauraweinbach>

⁵ Jazzman James Frost Winn – <http://www.myspace.com/jazzmanjameslv>

The last song was a "sing along" and Mike made oversized "flashcards" with the words. Unfortunately, he thought that velcro would attach the posterboard to the back wall, and double-sided tape was needed. Very funny man, that Mike Chase⁶.

So we all had a good time (well, at least I did, but then again, I had a lot of vodka, which I remedied this morning by having spoonfuls of Vegemite -- sorry Bridget, I know you don't like bloggers writing about this kind of stuff).

Maybe it was the vodka, maybe it was just being in a great music environment, but I was feeling very buzzed and very euphoric. I was in a very "special space" by the time that Foxtails Brigade came on and they are very special.

The two, Laura Weinbach⁷ on vocals, guitar and Sivan Sadeh on violin, are certainly not commercial, but their songs are very sweet and satirical, catchy and their sound is epherial. Laura sings in French and I can almost see her standing on the Left Bank in front of Cafe Flore collecting tips and accolades.

For those interested in my Muni ride home, I regret to say that I am going to dissapoint you as Mike Chase was generous enough to offer me a ride home because I had my gianormous bass amp .

Can I say here how much I HATE that stupid amplifier? I was bringing it downstairs using a squeaky dolly and was navigating two steps and it fell over, knocking over this lovely pot of orchids in my apartment foyer. I feel like an orchid killer. The knob for the volume/gain snapped off, and the only way to fix it is to dismantle the thing and sauter the new knobs on the mother board. I learned how to sauter just to fix the damn thing, but I'm tired of it now. I know I said that equipment isn't SO important, but I'm beginning to rethink that. I think my Thailand fund will have to be raided for new bass amp.

Grief.

⁶ Mike Chase – <http://www.myspace.com/mikechasemusic>

⁷ Laura Weinbach – <http://www.myspace.com/lauraweinbach>