

music blog - *The Utah - four months of music* (aka Tiki's quarterly report)

By Tiki Houseman, 22-July-2008

<http://www.myspace.com/tikihouseman>

I've now been consistently going to [the Utah](#) open mics¹ for four months now. Typically, in the biz world, you analyze how the quarter went, and I think it's a good time for a review of the big bubble I belong to.

I've played in many, many bands of all genres, and granted, this mostly was in Sacramento, where the music scene is dominated by speed metal, which doesn't exactly lend itself to open mics. I really have not been a part of a music scene like the Utah's where the artists were/are so cooperative and supportive of each other. Not that egos don't exist -- they do - - but they're a bit tamed in this environment.

For example, last night, [Dave G](#)² had a great placement and played an original and we were all wondering when the Dave G band was going to emerge. (It's in the works -- lucky for us). Dave plays bass for a lot of other people and it's nice to hear that we will soon see a project that he is fronting with his songs (and I think the line is really long of artists who would love to play with Dave and support him). These kinds of kudos would not happen in a cut-throat environment.

After going to the Utah for the last four months, (I'm going to stretch my neck and be a little catty -- meow), I don't really think that my last band -- the one I've been broken hearted about -- comprises real musicians. This is a little salve for my wounds, but I think my former band mates (and during my tenure with them, I would include myself in this criticism), never supported other musicians, and yet they would expect others to support them. This is probably why after playing for 13 years together they have yet to form a following. Also, I do think there was a lot of dabbling without commitment.

The real musicians at the Utah live and breathe music. They are certainly not dabblers -- they are artists are very committed to their craft, and to the music community. Why else would we subject ourselves to so little sleep? (I'm now listing sleeping as a pasttime).

¹ Hotel Utah Open Mic with host JJ Schultz – <http://theutah.org> –and- <http://www.myspace.com/theutah>

² Dave G – <http://www.myspace.com/davegursommusic>

Perfection is not required and pouring your heart into a song is -- that's passion for you! (BTW, [PaleFighter](#)³ was the feature last night and I really love the way he is so committed to his songs and how he pours himself into each song).

Personally, I have grown and that's good, although not without growing pains. I can now sing while I'm playing the bass (I couldn't do this in March) and I am writing more songs, although I would hardly call myself prolific. I have also met some incredible people.

It will be exciting to see what happens in the next four months!

³ Palefighter – <http://www.myspace.com/palefightermusic>