

LEARNING TO Crawl

From old-fashioned rock to indie-punk, local music event to benefit Katrina victims

Kristen Truesdale
FOR THE GAMECOCK

Twenty-five bands, four venues, \$5, one night. With rock, country, jazz, blues, hip-hop, funk and folk bands making the lineup, The Free Times' sixth annual Music Crawl features music for all tastes.

Students can enjoy a variety of musical talent at an event that seeks to highlight and promote local musicians.

On Saturday night, music

will take over the Vista, stealing the spotlight at Flying Saucer, Headliner's, Kelly's and Art Bar. With three of the venues centered on Park Street and Headliner's only a crawl away on Gervais Street, the event allows music lovers an opportunity to hop from venue to venue to take in a variety of sounds.

The wide range of sounds is sure to please anyone, no matter what genre of music they enjoys. In past years, the Music Crawl has attracted between 1,500 and 2,000 people.

"The idea is to bounce from bar to bar, checking out new bands," Marty Fort, Entreat guitarist, said. "USC students will love it because it's affordable at 20 cents per band. And they'll get to hear a huge variety of music, people watch and take in one of Columbia's best events."

With a sound like A Perfect Circle, Entreat is sure to attract the alternative rock fan. Founded by Fort and Robert Savage, drummer, two years ago, the band welcomes a new singer, Patti Davis. Playing at Headliner's, the Crawl will be her first public performance with the band.

"She's been co-writing a lot of songs, and her voice is our missing link," Fort said. "Live it will be awesome. She's got great stage presence."

With Patti's deep, melodic Shirley Manson style vocals, Entreat "entices the listener with a thick, intoxicating melody of blurring, dark, pop-tronic rock."

On another note and another stage, Sunshone Still offers listeners a different sound. Christopher Smith's guitar and harmonica challenge the southern, folk genre. Smith calls his music "dusty and warm art-country balladry."

Smith produces a sound a little like Iron and Wine: rich and powerful. In his blog, Jason



Entreat is one of 25 bands playing at The Free Times Music Crawl on Saturday. Proceeds will benefit the Hurricane Katrina relief fund. The festival costs \$5 and will feature rock, country and other genres.

Mulgrew praised Smith's album, "Dead Letters," with lyrics that touch on religion and history. Smith's music will bring depth to Saturday's lineup.

"You can put on (this music) and listen to (it) all the way through. It's kind of like moody country or something, rather indescribable — ambient, mellow, thoughtful," Mulgrew said.

For the more energetic music fan, indie-rock band, Alaska the Tiger will light up another stage. With Patrick Wall, drums, Jordan Blackmon, vocals and guitar, and Matthew Kennedy, bass and vocals, the band will make its first appearance at the crawl after only five months together.

As veterans from other local bands, the members of Alaska

the Tiger developed a sound full of percussion and up-beat, vivacious rhythms.

For all the classic rock 'n' roll fans, Hot Lava Monster will be returning for its appearance at the event to keep the Crawl swinging.

"We've played in bigger cities like Atlanta," Patrick Baxley, vocalist, said, "but Columbia has always shown us some of the most exciting, raw, and inventive bands. I feel like Hot Lava Monster has some fresh songwriting and a passionate delivery that college students could enjoy, but if not for us, come out because you're going to hear stuff you've never heard before."

Playing Headliner's from 12:15 a.m. until, Hot Lava Monster will bring rock back to the main-stage spotlight.

Although fans must be 18 or older to see the shows, Baxley and the band, along with 24 other performers, will bring a variety of music back to Columbia's nightlife, offering music lovers everything from new wave to old-fashioned rock.

"It may not be hip or current," Baxley said, "but who wants to be that? We're not trying to win the VMAs here, we're just trying to do what's honest. For us, it's rock 'n' roll."

Starting things off early, Art Bar will begin with geek-rock band Mean Weiner at 6 p.m. while the other venues plan to begin around 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit Habitat for Humanity's effort to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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Sunshone Still will perform at the Free Times' Music Crawl on Saturday to benefit Habitat for Humanity's Katrina relief efforts.

Southern band plunders, pilfers for diverse fans

Blackbeard's Truck's catchy originals, classic covers charm college campuses, greek students

Devon Ulcek
FOR THE GAMECOCK

Blackbeard's Truck has traveled across the South, plundering parties and bars with its diverse sound and mercilessly pilfering a growing number of dedicated admirers along the way. Arrrrgh.

Blackbeard's Truck strives to write music perfect for the party atmosphere. Their Southern rock sound has grown popular in the Greek scene, as they've played fraternity and sorority social events and have booked shows with universities all over the state, including Clemson and Furman.

Their set combines original material with Jimmy Buffett

and AC/DC covers sure to appeal to Carolina girls and rock 'n' roll lovers.

"I like them because they play a good mix of music. 'Brown Eyed Girl' is one of the songs they cover, and it's one of my favorites," said Katherine Smith, a first-year hotel, restaurant and tourism management student.

The varied playlist, which includes covers from artists such as Marvin Gaye and Garth Brooks to U2 and the Eagles, contributes to the band's diverse following in the Carolinas and Georgia.

"Our audiences range anywhere from 16 to 60," Buzz Miller, band member, said.

Since forming in 1998, Ryan Headley, Grant Wooten, Buzz Miller and Martin Giles, with consistent lineup in tow,



Blackbeard's Truck plays upbeat Southern rock.

have produced two albums and are in the process of recording a third. The first release, "Fat Steve and the Toad Frog Daddy," represents the band's basic sound.

The second release, "BFL," was released in 2002, demonstrating the band's lyrical and instrumental maturity and featuring a tighter sound.

The third album's release has been postponed because of time constraints. The band looks to complete it early next year.

"The third album will be the first since I joined the band," Miller said, "We have grown tighter as a band, and our songwriting has really matured. We want someone to

hear our song and immediately start to sing along."

The band's original material revolves around catchy, upbeat, Southern rock, with influences from classic rock to country. The sweet vocals carry a melody easily reproduced live, adding to the band's musical strength.

Blackbeard's Truck has shared the stage with national acts such as Blue Dogs and other Americana, regional favorites.

"The band is perfectly happy doing what we're doing now. We plan on keeping it a weekend thing. If (a record deal) was a good enough offer and could compensate for us to

TRUCK ● 7

Trapt concocts 'Stand Up' album

Alternative-metal band delivers competent sophomore effort without much diversity

Josh Cole
FOR THE GAMECOCK

Alternative-metal outfit Trapt is back with "Someone in Control," an album three years in the making after the Southern California band's successful, self-titled debut release in late 2002.

As the band's sophomore effort on Warner Bros. Records, the first single, "Stand Up," has already taken over airplay on radio stations. Delivering 11 new songs, the band continues on the path of its first album, proving Trapt still has what it takes to be a successful band in its genre.

The album's first song, "Disconnected," is the second single. Beginning loud with heavily distorted guitar and bass, it transitions into the melodic guitar verse that guitarist Simon Ormandy has become known for, while Pete

Charell mixes in complex bass lines. With Aaron "Monty" Montgomery on drums, the song stays true to style.

The lyrics, sung by vocalist Chris Brown, go along with the album's ever-present dejected words.

"Stand Up" has a catchy guitar riff, which hooks the listener and joins Brown's attempt to release his anger through words. The lines, "How my anger has grown" and "I've got a feeling inside that I can't seem to control" reveal the tension Brown desperately wants to get rid of.

Aside from the lyrics, the music mixes high guitar notes with low bass notes in Trapt's standard fashion. Mixed together, the song comes together to form the strongest cut on the album.

The band shows the slower side of its music in "Lost

TRAPT ● 6