



Courtesy of trueendeavorsblog.com

David Vandervelde said his live performances are different from his album recordings. The pop-punk artist will play tonight at Chronic Town.

Show to embrace pop-rock classics

By David Strader and Chris Dilenno
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Chronic Town is doing its best to bring dynamic music to State College.

David Vandervelde and Justin Stens and the Get Real Gang will play with local opener The Surgical Staff at 8 tonight at the hookah lounge, 224 W. College Ave.

The show is open to ages 18 and up, and tickets are \$7 at the door.

Jesse Ruegg, co-owner and manager of Chronic Town, said he booked Vandervelde to expand the musical diversity in State College.

"We're trying to bring something different to the college town," he said. "[David Vandervelde] is '60s-influenced pop-punk in the vein of Marc Bolan or The Beatles."

Vandervelde described his music as "embracing the classics," though his newest EP is more geared towards power-pop.

He said his live performances are a far cry from his album recordings.

"I try to do things differently every time I tour," he said. "We have a very spontaneous style on stage."

Ruegg said Justin Stens and the Get Real Gang is a band whose style is loosely similar to '70s artists like Paul McCartney.

"They're a different kind of animal," Ruegg said. "It's very literate guitar rock."

If you go

What: David Vandervelde, Justin Stens and the Get Real Gang and The Surgical Staff

When: 8 tonight

Where: Chronic Town

Details: Tickets are \$7, ages 18 and up

Stens, former drummer for Dr. Dog, said his new project has given him a chance to express his otherwise suppressed musical creativity.

"My songs never really saw the light of day with that band," Stens said. "I spent so much time behind the drum kit that no one even knew about the songs I had written."

Stens said he is excited to play at Chronic Town, as he is fond of college town shows.

Joe Beeney, (graduate-psychology) lead guitarist and vocalist for The Surgical Staff, said he is a huge fan of Chronic Town.

"It's wonderful, and we love playing there," he said. "It's the best venue in town."

Beeney said the success of Chronic Town can be attributed to its owners.

"Jeff [Van Fossan] and Jesse [Ruegg] should win some sort of community reward, because what they've done with that place is amazing," Beeney said. "They do so much just for the love of it."

To e-mail reporter: das5461@psu.edu

Fans request artist's visit

By Brittany Horn
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

If swing, jazz and rock were combined, it would sound like the music of Martin Sexton, fan Paul Rutter said.

"He can take a song that everyone knows and cover it in a way you would never imagine," Rutter (graduate-adult education) said.

Taking the stage at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave., Martin Sexton will showcase that unique sound as part of his Solo Sugarcoating Tour.

Tickets for the show are \$20, and Rutter said between the low-ticket cost and the quality of Sexton's live performances, it would be "inexcusable" for someone not to go.

"There are so many unexpected pleasures that you find when you see him live," Rutter said. "He doesn't cater to the whims of a record company."

Sexton originates from the hills of Syracuse, New York, where he began playing music in the '80s. Since 1992, Sexton has released nine albums, including his latest project and touring album, "Sugarcoating," according to his website.

Sexton has been praised for his live work by fans and colleagues alike — John Mayer calls him one of his "favorite artists of all time"



Courtesy of myspace.com

Martin Sexton will play at the State Theatre tonight at 8 as part of his Solo Sugarcoating Tour. 18-year-old Cara Salimando will open the show.

If you go

What: Martin Sexton concert

When: 8 tonight; doors open at 7

Where: The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Details: Tickets are \$20.

in a YouTube video posted in February 2008. While Sexton has not played the State Theatre lately, Facebook and e-mail recommendations gave fans the opportunity to bring Sexton to the downtown venue.

"He's definitely been suggested

by enough members of the community to warrant us bringing him here," said Kristy Cyone, the theater's marketing director.

Zach Zimble (junior-supply chain management and information sciences and technology) said Sexton is "one of the better songwriters of our time." Zimble is the president and general manager of The Lion 90.7 FM, the show's media sponsor.

As for turnout, Cyone said she expects a diverse audience.

"We expect to see a mix of young and old, but there will definitely be a lot of college students," Cyone said.

Cara Salimando, an 18-year-old from New Jersey, will open.

Club's show to boast female talent

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

If you go

What: Songwriters Club Ladies' Night

When: Performance sign-ups start at 7 tonight, show starts at 7:30

Where: West Halls study lounge

In an effort to bring female performers into the spotlight, the Penn State Songwriters Club is hosting an open mic Ladies' Night tonight.

Women wishing to perform can sign up at 7 p.m., and performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the West Halls study lounge.

Maura Westerlund, vice president of the Songwriters Club, said the event is not an exclusively musical presentation — unlike a standard open mic night.

"We're open to anything," she said.

"We want everyone to know that it's open to not only songs, but also lyrics, poetry and even acting."

Westerlund said the open mic was an idea to promote female talent in the organization.

"Originally, there were a lot more guys in the group than girls, but we found a lot more girls joining this semester," Westerlund (sophomore-business) said.

"We wanted to think of a creative way to get our ladies headlining."

Westerlund added that the stage is also open to all students.

She'll be singing and playing guitar at the event.

"I like to say that I'm a jazzy, acoustic pop style," Westerlund

said. "But someone told me I'm soulful, so that's kind of cool."

Lauren Wheeler (senior-journalism and English) said the Ladies' Night will be her first performance at a Songwriters Club open mic event.

"I think because it's specifically for females, there won't be as much pressure," she said.

"The audience will be different, and I won't have to compete with a bunch of guys."

Men who attend are encouraged to wear pink to support the female performers.

"I'm expecting good music, good people, and also a good purpose," Mike Callas (junior-film and video) said.

Callas added that the West Halls Study Lounge will be an ideal location to host the open mic.

To e-mail reporter: das5461@psu.edu

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