

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Classical Musicians Invade Local Diner

Local classical musicians stormed out of their orchestra pit and took over a local diner to play their music. Not really, but several classical musicians are taking over Buzzbrews Kitchen on Lemmon Avenue every Tuesday night to play for local audiences.

Classical Open Mic is the brain child of Kristin Center, a classical pianist and singer/songwriter, and Michael Jackson, a creative entrepreneur and photographer. Their idea is to make classical music accessible for the players to play and the listeners to enjoy in a non-traditional setting.

The Classical Open Mic is held every Tuesday, at Buzzbrews Kitchen, 4334 Lemmon Avenue in Dallas, TX. It's open to all classically trained musicians, instrumentalist and vocalist, who are prepared to perform. A piano is available, tuned, and ready to go. Each performer should bring an accompanist though there always seems to be someone there that's willing to sight read and play along if someone comes without their own accompanist.

There is no fee to perform and to participate all a performer needs to do is go to www.ClassicalOpenMic.com and click Performance Schedule in the menu bar. There are a total of 10 to 12 slots available each Tuesday. Each performer will be able to play for about 10 minutes. After playing, Kristin and Michael will interview the performer about the piece and the audience will be able to ask questions.

Why a restaurant and not in a performance hall? Kristin explains, "The environment of a bar or a restaurant might not seem like the most conducive place for a classical musician, however, that might be because they are never given the chance to play in such an environment."

The idea is to get audiences involved in the music much more like the audiences were when Mozart was composing music. "In a way, Mozart was kind of like the Michael Jackson of his day," says

Kristin. The difference between Mozart's audience and today's audience is that his audience knew the music because it was the popular music of the day. Mozart actually wrote notes about his scores anticipating the audience to clap or cheer after a rousing passage. If his audiences sat emotionless like today's classical audiences and didn't react like enthusiastic fans at a Michael Jackson concert, Mozart would have been horrified. Our whole idea is to get the audience and the musicians to engage with classical music again just like they do with pop music," says Kristin.

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Kristin Center - Kristin has always mixed her intensive classical training with songwriting and has recently released her original music that intertwines classical music textures with popular music progressions. "Most classical musicians haven't had the experience of cheering fans," says Kristin, "and I wanted to create an environment where that experience would reach us, the classical musicians."

Michael Jackson - Michael has a classical clarinet background but his focus was mostly on rock and pop. "I think it's a shame that most classical musicians study so hard, but don't have the opportunity to reach a large portion of the contemporary audience." Classical Open Mic is a place where classical musicians from students to paid professionals can show off their skills in front of an audience that they wouldn't usually be able to reach.

Buzzbrews Kitchen – Buzzbrews Kitchen is an eclectic and funky round-the-clock eatery specializing in all day breakfast favorites, omelets, salads, grilled meats, south-or-the-border creations, and all-you-can drink coffee.

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