

# The Top 10 Reasons Why Milwaukee Loves Music

by Kerri Krueger | March 2008

**M**usic comes in many genres and is something that everyone can enjoy. Music is a form of art for those that write and perform it, while others view it simply as a form of entertainment. Milwaukee can boast of at least two musical acts that found their starts here. Numerous musical venues house even more diverse musical acts. From opera and jazz to alternative rock and country, Milwaukee has a place for it all. Here are some of the top reasons why our city is crazy about music.

## 10. Shank Hall

In the business for 19 years, Shank Hall, a smaller and more intimate venue, was recently voted "The Best Live Music Venue" according to the A-List on WISN.com. Having a capacity of only 300, this recently remodeled club has welcomed such acts as Megadeath, Sarah Lee Guthrie, and the Truckee Brothers.

## 9. The Milwaukee Opera Theatre (MOT)

Founded in 1999, the MOT is funded by individual donors and grants from the Supporters of Opera Singers. MOT singers perform at various venues throughout the city, and have performed such shows as "Magic Flute" by Mozart, "Don Pasquale" by Donizetti, and "Hansel and Gretel" by Humperdinck.

## 8. Caroline's

An intimate jazz club located on South 2nd street, Caroline's is the place for jazz lovers. Warm and friendly, Caroline's invites guest musicians from around the city. A great small, cozy place to meet friends and enjoy music.

## 7. The Rave-Eagles Club

Boasting five full stages, The Rave as it is commonly known, is the place for alternative rock and metal concerts. In recent years, The Rave has hosted such shows as The Taste of Chaos and Music is a Weapon Tours, as well as Panic at the Disco and Alice and Chains.

## 6. Jazz in the Park

Taking place in Cathedral Square Park from June through September, Jazz in the Park has become one of Milwaukee's best-known outdoor concert series. Founded by the East Town Association in the early 90's, Jazz in the Park is a weekly free and family oriented outing, featuring different styles of jazz music.

## 5. The Gufs

October 2008 will mark the 20-year anniversary for these boys who specialize in honest and melodic rock music. The Gufs, fronted by Goran Kralj, got their start in the late 80's on the Eastside of Milwaukee. Their latest album, "A Different Sea," was released in 2006.

## 4. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO)

Since it's inception in 1959, the MSO has become Wisconsin's largest performing arts organization. To date, 120 concerts have been performed each season in the areas of education, family, and classics, among others.

## 3. Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Named after Milwaukee's longest-serving mayor, Maier Festival Park is home to Summerfest, as well as other cultural festivals such as Festa Italiana, Irish Fest, PrideFest, and Mexican Fiesta. The park also houses the

Marcus Amphitheater, a 23,000 seat concert venue.

## 2. The BoDeans

Formed in 1983, this rock band from Waukesha has become the unofficial state band over the years. Taking their name from a Beverly Hillbillies reference, The BoDeans have released 12 albums and regularly play shows in and around the Milwaukee area as well as other areas throughout Wisconsin.

## 1. Summerfest

Also known as “The Big Gig,” Summerfest is the world’s largest music festival. Summerfest runs for tens days late June through early July, Summerfest attracts nearly one million people every year and features bands on the local and national levels from different musical genres. Live music is offered on 13 stages, including the Marcus Amphitheater.

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