

5/21 - MUSIC

Music for the Masses

By Dinah Cardin



Photo by Lilly Roberts

Looks of bewilderment are common from those passing by the large picture windows at Gulu Gulu in Salem's downtown on Wednesday nights. They think someone famous must have stopped by or Salem State College must have rented the space for some sort of function.

▶ 0:00
Open Mic Medley

But no. It's just weekly open mic night, when young musicians start streaming in at 6, guitar cases slung over their shoulders and didgerdoos and wooden flutes in tow. The night is becoming a draw for real talent from all over the North Shore and it guarantees tired-eyed waitresses



doing major clean-up the next morning. You might hear the surreal throat-singing of co-host Brian Donnelly in between acts and you'll certainly see a pretty, female folk singer ala-1960s, followed by three guys on guitars and then a loud band with plenty of tight, black t-shirts, tattoos, facial hair and perfect, silky, long tresses. Warm summer night chat fills the patio beside leafy green Lappin Park. It's noisy. Table-jockeying is a sport. It's a scene, alright. And we all know how these popular things have a feel of special impermanence that makes you glad you were there that summer.

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One Response to "Music for the Masses"

1. *mediaseth* says:

5/22/09 at 4:39 pm

There's nothing else like Gulu-Gulu, not only on the North Shore but even in greater Boston. Nice Depeche Mode reference, by the way.

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