

Get lost in the sound at Cat's Cradle

The night of my high school graduation in Greenville, N.C., Jenny Lewis was playing at Cat's Cradle.

It seemed that I had two options. Two hours of watching my peers receive worthless pieces of paper or going to see one

of my favorite artists at a cool venue? To me, the choice was clear. I begged my parents to let me skip the ceremony, but they wouldn't budge.

"Once you're in Chapel Hill, you can go to Cat's Cradle whenever you want," my mom told me.

Little did she know how frequently I would want to — and would — go to Cat's Cradle.

My freshman year, I walked 15 minutes to Cat's Cradle from my Granville dorm a few times a month. I saw bands that I had only dreamed of seeing when I lived in Greenville.

That year, all of my almost-hipster dreams came true: I snagged a Blind Pilot setlist, I danced in the chaos of Dan Deacon, and I was in the front row for Beach House.

At Cat's Cradle, I was introduced to my favorite band, St. Vincent. That same night I was

close enough to touch Andrew Bird's rainbow-colored socks.

I've found, though, that going to Cat's Cradle is more than getting to see some of the best indie bands in the country.

Cat's Cradle is an important part of our community, and a community in and of itself. I have plenty of friends who claim not to be "music people," and many of them have wanted to come along with me to a concert just so they can say that they've been.

There's something about the energy of the place; it's infectious. There is always this moment right before a show starts when the lights dim and the audience goes nuts. When that moment arrives on any given night at Cat's Cradle, I can't help but think, "This is where I live. I am a part of this."

The space also features plenty of local bands and supports local causes. This past year, they hosted Mipso Trio, a band that includes UNC students. And they've been the site of a concert by GirlsRock N.C., a camp that turns little girls into rock stars over the course of a week.

I've gone to shows by myself at Cat's Cradle. Attending a concert alone is probably out of most people's comfort zones, but it



Clarke Tugwell
Editorial board member

doesn't bother me. You'll meet new people, make new friends — or just have a great time dancing alone in the crowd.

And I've found in my experience that there will always be familiar faces, and more importantly, I'll be surrounded by people who love the music, people like me who want to get lost in the sound.

For two hours, these strangers will be my family. That's the magic of a great concert, and Cat's Cradle knows how to host them.

Maybe you're a music lover who knows the names of every band coming to Cat's Cradle this year. Or maybe you're just looking for a good night out. I promise you the venue doesn't disappoint.

So grab a friend or just take yourself to one of the many shows that are sure to play this year. I promise you a night you will not soon forget.

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ASG to reform amidst criticism

The association works to represent the interests of UNC-system students.

By Vinayak Balasubramanian
State & National Editor

At a time of financial and budgetary difficulties, both among students seeking to pay for college and governments seeking to fund colleges, students can count on their interests being represented.

Created in the 1970s, the UNC Association of Student Governments represents the 220,000 public university students across the state in speaking before state legislators, the UNC system and other state and federal officials.

The association meets monthly at a different UNC campus to discuss issues affecting students, such as tuition increases.

Each university sends four delegates, two of which must include the student body president and vice president.

UNC-CH's additional two delegates include the speaker of Student Congress and someone who is chosen by the speaker, student body president and vice president.

The president of the association, elected every two years by the association, serves as a member of the Board of Governors.

Atul Bhula, former association president, said the association was founded in the 1970s to provide a venue for discussion amidst the civil rights movement and the formation of the modern-day UNC system.

Bhula, who presided from 2010 through 2012, said some of the major projects conducted by the association under his leadership included initiatives for collaboration with international students and negotiations with UNC-system officials on budget cuts.

The association's efficiency has been scrutinized from members of the UNC-CH Student Congress, and a referendum was held at UNC-CH to decide if the university should withdraw from it. While students voted to remain in the association, a committee was set up by the UNC-CH Student Congress to review it.

Cameron Carswell, president of the association, said she looks forward to working to improve the effectiveness of the organization.

"I will ensure from the first meeting that delegates are passionate, timely and focused," she said. "It is unfair for students to be misrepresented by apathetic delegates."

Contact the State and National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.



Cameron Carswell
is the president of the UNC Association of Student Governments. She was elected in April.