Ames and Des Moines music around town

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Zeke’s, located on the west side of Ames, is one of the city’s latest additions to its growing art scene. Zeke’s is a non-profit community center catering to the arts. It features live music and performing arts as well as playing host to art shows and exhibits. Located in an unassuming commercial building on Lincoln Way, Zeke’s and its neighbor Capanna Coffee and Gelato bring vibrance to a bland streetscape of gas stations, strip malls, fast food, and liquor. Zeke’s is an affordable form of entertainment for those under 21 and offers Ames an excellent alternative to the bar scene. With cover charges ranging from $5-$12, you’ll still have enough money to enjoy a cup of coffee next door.

Genres: Indie, Alternative, Folk, Instrumental

People’s Court
216 Court Ave. 3rd Floor, Des Moines, Iowa

Located in downtown Des Moines, people’s court is a venue favorite among the Ames community. People’s Court has a wide variety of musicians representing each genre making it a venue you must see. This venue is pretty spacious, with seating around the outer edges of the concert floor. The venue is above Legends restaurant making it a bit of a climb upstairs to get to the space but the work is well worth it. The cover charge ranges from $5-$20.

Genres: All Genres

Ames and Des Moines ●

Music Around Town

MOTHER’S PUB
2900 West Street, Ames

Mother’s Pub sits just a stone’s throw from the west edge of campus. Nestled in a residential area, Mother’s Pub is one of just a few neighborhood businesses on West Street and is a true neighborhood pub. From the outside the pub looks a little rustic, complete with a faded mural and gravel parking lot. This is belied by the newly renovated interior. It has a small stage frequented by cover bands and travelling musicians. Cover charges average $3-$5, but unfortunately only those 21 and older can enjoy the live music. Mother’s offers a wide variety of beers and pretzels are available for visitors to snack on.

Genres: Rock, Alternative, Cover bands, Blues, Folk, Country

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Clawson et al.: Ames and Des Moines music around town

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VAUDEVILLE MEWS
212 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa
Vaudeville Mews is a true music venue in that it is only open when there is a show. The venue offers a wide variety of shows, ranging from underground Hip-Hop to Heavy Metal. This is the place to go if you want to see local bands and MC's perform live. Shows range from local musicians to more nationally known. Although many of the shows are for all ages, some are restricted to 21 and older. Vaudeville Mews is a cozy yet accommodating venue with a narrow floor plan and a loft. One can stand up in the large open space near the stage, hang out at the bar nestled under the loft, or mingle upstairs. Cover charge ranges from $5-$20. Vaudeville Mews has a fully stocked bar and although food is not served here, a variety of food options are available on lively 4th Street.
Genres: Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, Alternative, Indie, Electronic

DG’S TAP HOUSE
127 Main Street, Ames
DG’s Tap House, located in Downtown Ames, gives the 21+ crowd a more laid back alternative to the crowded and rowdy Campustown. Hidden away on the second floor of an old Main Street building, DG’s Tap House is a gem at the end of a narrow staircase. DG’s Tap House caters to beer snobs and music lovers, with a selection of 56 beers on tap and a great array of live music. Frozen pizzas from Iowa’s own Pasquale’s Pizza are available. Occasionally shows are free of a cover charge, however most shows cost $5-$8, with major acts costing $15-$20.
Genres: Jam, Funk, Rock, Reggae, Folk, Indie, Hip-Hop, Electronic

THE HOUSE OF BRICKS
525 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa
Located in the heart of the trendy East Village, the House of Bricks has been and continues to be one of Des Moines’ most popular places for live music. The House of Bricks hosts a wide variety of musical styles and, with a full kitchen and bar, visitors can have all the comforts of home. This relatively small one-story venue is currently being renovated and expanded. Plans include a fresh façade, a more modern interior, and a roof terrace.
Genres: Hip-Hop, Rock, Heavy Metal, Open Mic., Comedy, Americana

GAS LAMP
1501 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa
Gas Lamp is located at the former location of the legendary Blues on Grand. Gas Lamp has breathed new life into the old building and is continuing the long tradition of live music on the corner of 15th and Grand. Many updates have been made to the first floor of this old downtown apartment building. The bar has a fresh but vintage feel to it with its spray-painted televisions nested above the bar reading “gas lamp,” to its wooden tables, pinball machines, and Shepard Fairey-style wallpaper. Gas Lamp has a nice stage area near its large windows overlooking the Pappajohn Sculpture Park. Some shows are free, but most nights there’s a $5-$8 cover charge. The bar has a wide selection of Microbrews, imports, and the usual assorted others. No food is served at the venue, however on the weekends a food vendor will supply hot dogs and Italian Beef sandwiches until the wee hours of 2:00 a.m.
Genres: Blues, Indie, Folk, Country, Alternative