

MUSIC

Lead a punk band for a night with Karaoke Crime Scene at the Red Sea in Minneapolis

No need to feel paranoid about a bad reputation during these karaoke nights – at a new location.

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Guitarist Daniel Moore performs with Karaoke Crime Scene at the Red Sea Restaurant and Bar in Minneapolis. Other members of the punk band are Mike Czech on bass and James Hell on drums. (Carlos Gonzalez/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Live karaoke versions of “Cherry Bomb” and “I Wanna Be Sedated” no longer happen at Palmer’s Bar, but there is plenty of anarchy at other Twin Cities venues.

The punk band Karaoke Crime Scene invites attendees onstage to sing along with their favorite rock or punk song from the band’s [Spotify playlist](#). From riot grrrl music to The Beastie Boys to traditional punk bands, the playlist has something for almost every kind of rocker.

After two years performing at the [now closed Palmer’s Bar](#), Karaoke Crime Scene has moved to the Red Sea Restaurant and Bar in Minneapolis.

Before that, the band continued to bring chaos to the Twin Cities, performing at Amsterdam Bar on Sept. 6, a house show in Dinkytown on Sept. 10 and at Cloudland Theater.

The band includes guitarist Daniel Moore and – going by their stage names – drummer Jake Hell and bassist Mike Czech.



Derek Schultz, middle, of Bloomington performs with Karaoke Crime Scene at the Red Sea Restaurant and Bar in Minneapolis. (Carlos Gonzalez/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Though the lyrics are on a monitor and the band knows the songs, Moore says mistakes

still happen – but it's all part of the experience.

“That's where a little bit of the the magic is made, because you know, it's kind of unrehearsed,” Moore said.

He said the shows are more of an interactive experience than a performance and people enjoy being the lead singer of a band for a bit.

Moore grew up in Cincinnati's punk and DIY scene and going to basement shows. He said the scene had the mindset and spirit of “Nobody's gonna give it to us. We gotta make it happen.”

Now that Moore is in his 40s, with two kids and a full time job, Karaoke Crime Scene allows him to remain active in the scene and maintain the DIY spirit.

The crowds often sing and jump along with whoever is singing, creating what Moore described as “big, kind of sloppy, high energy affair” all on a Wednesday night at a local bar.

“It's an easy way to re-engage with the crowd of people you love, but maybe are a bit disconnected with,” Moore said.

Bringing Palmer's to new spaces

The band's move to the Red Sea, an Ethiopian restaurant, happened with the help of the Palm Club, a group of former Palmer's workers and regulars who want to provide a space for the Palmer's community to get together

The plan is to always have a Palmer's bartender at the Red Sea when there is a Palm Club event, which so far is on Wednesdays and Thursdays, according to Z'Claire Swenson, a former Palmer's bartender who is part of the Palm Club.

“I think it's a big deal to have a bartender you know, like people are so happy to see me behind the bar. I was happy to see them,” Swenson said.



A patron performs with Karaoke Crime Scene at the Red Sea Restaurant and Bar in Minneapolis. (Carlos Gonzalez/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

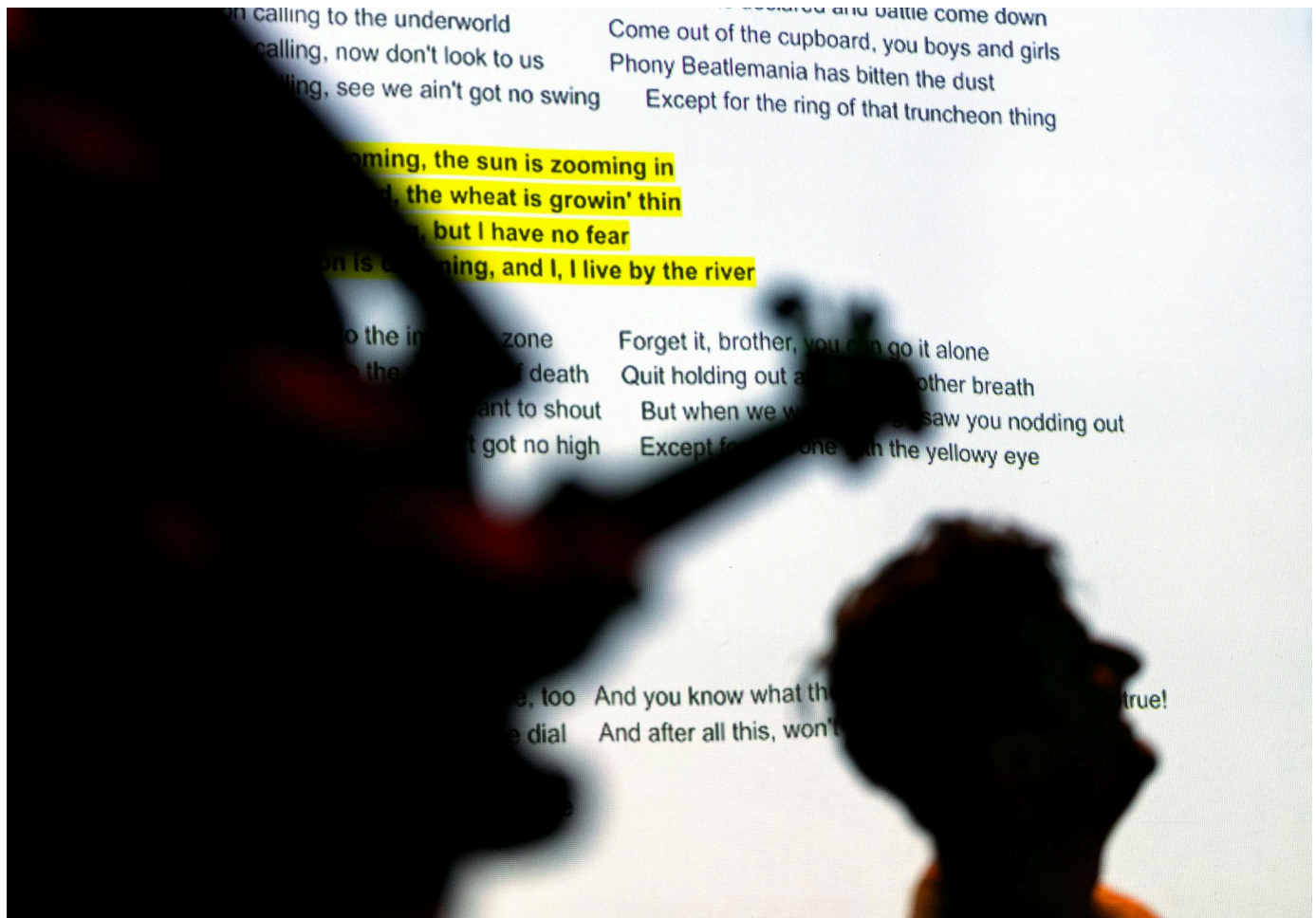
The Palm Club has the support to continue putting on these events, but Swenson acknowledged that many people don't want to or cannot afford to go out every week. She said that she doesn't twist people's arms to come to the Palm Club's events, but lets people know that showing up proves that these events are important.

On Thursday, the Palm Club hosts Laura Karels and other musicians at the Red Sea.

In addition to the Red Sea, Swenson said a lot of people from Palmer's go to the Hook & Ladder Theater. It's run by Chris Mazeno, who used to work at Palmer's. Swenson, who also works at the Hook & Ladder, remembers him from when she first came to Palmer's.

In October, the Hook & Ladder began hosting a music series called Dirty P's Thirsty 3rd Thursdays Club. The goal of the series is to keep the Palmer's community connected, according to the Hook & Ladder website.

Each event includes local band the Front Porch Swingin' Liquor Pigs and some events feature Minneapolis' Cornbread Harris or the Feelin' Band.



Lyrics to London Calling by The Clash are projected on the screen as Karaoke Crime Scene performs. (Carlos Gonzalez/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

The last Dirty P's event is Dec. 18.

Swenson said it's important for people to have a space to go to be around others with different perspectives. She said it is disheartening to know that people are not going out as much.

"Going out isn't just about partying," said Swenson. "It's about being exposed to other people and hearing what other people have to say."