

art, culture and surroundings can utilize the power of his or her mind to its full potential. Eugene's a beautiful place both aesthetically and conceptually. Living off of those factors alone, however, don't allow for growth. I hope to see a music community that participates, that cares genuinely and unconditionally. It's not something that can happen because you or I say it to be true; it has to be practiced.

Eugene has harnessed an energy that could very well lead by example. It has become somewhat of a utopia. Before my arrival to Eugene, I lived in Chicago as well as San Antonio and was raised in the greater St. Louis area. Comparatively, the other areas I've been make Eugene look unreal and too good to be true. The one thing we *did* have in our music scenes, however, was a sense of togetherness. To be honest, with police brutality, working-class struggles and the insatiable desire to always "one-up" your neighbor, we are all aligned against one another out here. A music scene should be used to bridge the gap over such troubled waters.

I hope to see Eugene's music scene reach kids, all ages — more all-age events, more all-age venues. Take this philosophy and embed it in the hearts of the youth as they go out into the world and spread that message. I often tour more months than I'm actually home so I hope to go out and be that walking, talking example myself.



Melissa Ruth

Music teacher, frontwoman for Melissa Ruth & The Likely Stories

I would love to see this progressive city take more of a vested interest in the health of its music community. Live music is becoming increasingly radical as it is no longer mainstream entertainment. Evenings spent at home with Netflix have replaced bar bands, orchestras and dance halls.

Seeking out live music means engaging oneself on a community level. Spend your money in a live music venue and you enable artists to raise their voice: the voice of your neighbor, the voice of your friend, yourself. The city could invest. How about a rotating cast of musical ambassadors with subsidized rent for musicians-in-residence, the person responsible for playing music every Tuesday night at the local food bank, the farmers market, the airport? One of the things that I adore about Eugene is its culture of dreamers and doers, starry-eyed optimists, salty-dog realists. Supporting music is good for our community, it's grassroots as hell and we're just the people to do it.

Tim McLaughlin

Musician, multi-instrumentalist for Eleven Eyes

Wouldn't it be nice to be in a community where everyone was able to make a living doing what they were passionate about? And young people could pursue their interests and dreams without the fear of "whatcha gonna do when you grow up?" Imagine how good we'd all get at our craft, and how proud we would feel to share a piece of our soul with the community. I wonder how good our work ethic would be if we really cared about the outcome of our work? One might even enjoy the process of working. Maybe it wouldn't even be called work! Perhaps this is not possible though, as the Isley Brothers remind us, we do have "work to do." But there are many people in Eugene who fit this dream, and they are the beacons of light in our wonderful

town. But wouldn't it be nice if everyone had that light burning inside?



Amanda Burd

Morning Show co-host and promotions director, 104.7 KDUK

My musical background in Eugene comes from two very different places. I've been at KDUK for over two years now but, until recently, I was also the marketing director and a DJ at 88.1 KWVA. I booked handfuls of shows and saw many bands come through town during that time. That being said:

I dream of the DIY music scene thriving in Eugene. I dream of wonderful all-age venues, like The Boreal, having filled rooms of attendees so that the volunteer staff doesn't have to stress about making rent every month. I want people to support local acts and hard-working touring acts alike. I've been in so many rooms where people step outside when their friend's band isn't playing; I dream of people staying in the room to see the touring bands, and giving that act a chance to wow them. Bands work very hard to play their music for you — pay to see them, and pay them the respect of watching their set.



Alexandre Dossin

Award-winning pianist and UO associate professor of piano performance and piano literature

Since I arrived in Oregon with my family nine years ago, we were always pleased by Eugene's vibrant arts scene for a city of its size. We have music of international caliber, such as the Oregon Bach Festival, the guest artists for the Eugene Symphony seasons, Chamber Music @ Beall and other great events. Considering the overwhelming beauty of this part of the world, the wonderful facilities and instruments at the UO School of Music and Dance and the Hult Center, I would love to have our city organize a major international piano festival and competition. This would bring the best pianists around the world for two weeks of great playing, inspiration and community participation.

I am sure we can do a wonderful job organizing it, welcoming the artists and the audience. Educational events

could be added to the schedule, allowing our young aspiring artists to interact with international pianists.



Robert Sposato

Producer, The Jazz Station

It seems to me that with all the music this town offers on any given weekend, Eugene needs an "All Music Night" once a month, much like the First Friday ArtWalk. Each venue should offer free music that patrons can drop in on and partake for as long as they care. There are many venues that I never visit, but I do have curiosity about, and many music styles that I'd like to experience first hand. This monthly event would make it possible to eavesdrop on different venues, different scenes, different generations. It would give venues a chance to appeal to the general public instead of just to their own clientele.

It's really fun to mix with the many strata of society during these types of all-comers events, and musicians would benefit from wider exposure in circles with which they would otherwise intersect. Eugene is varied and diverse enough to provide these kind of city-wide events almost every week in art, music, theater, discourse. People need a better excuse to go downtown and take advantage of all that lives in this town. If there seems one word that I feel characterizes Eugene, it would be "tolerance." Why not continue to put our diversity on display? With music being so universal in its appeal, an "All Music Night" sounds like a viable way to do it.

What do you dream of for our local rivers?

Joe Moll

Executive director, McKenzie River Trust

I dream a meandering river
Lifting boats, fish, adventurous kids
Swirling off log jams, carving in dirt
Toppling cottonwood
Piling up gravel.

I dream a river with treasures upstream
Flotsam and jetsam the explorer child finds
And wonders who lives up there?
What am I sending down?

I dream a river where sons and daughters
Hold seines, scoop crayfish and chub
Marvel at shapes and colors
Put some in a bucket
To catch big fish.

I dream a river
As alive in meander
As the rambling path
We make along its banks.