



Ursula 1000 and a Mosaic of Sounds  
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By Tricia Couture, VLM Staff Writer - Before hearing The Misty Roses, the Hipsychords the Beeps and the DJ Ursula 1000, I thought the only mosaics were in museums, churches and the New York City subway stations. These bands cut pieces of words, sounds and music from movie soundtracks and records of the 60's and formed musical tapestry, creating new songs from old songs.

These artists were displaying their work at Pianos, at Ludlow and Stanton Streets in New York City on August 5. I was a little disappointed that I didn't see the pianos hinted at in the name of the bar but liked the wood floors, exposed brick wall and the upstairs lounge area (where a film festival was screening independent movies at the same time).

As the audience enjoyed the music, they slammed back drinks from the bar and ate food that included Po Boys, mussels, oysters, dim sum, grilled tuna, edamame, calamari, cold sesame noodles and portabella mushrooms as well as the usual burgers and their heavenly french fries. The service was a little slow at the crowded bar but everyone was enjoying the music and the scene too much to start a bar brawl.

Throughout the night, New York City DJ Ursula 1000 (Alex Gimeno) spun between bands. He got his start in Miami Beach by drumming in pop groups and dj-ing a wide variety of music. His stage name was inspired by Bond babe Ursula Andress.

All of the bands and Ursula1000 drew a huge, young crowd for a Tuesday work night.

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The last group, the Beeps were smashing with a lead singer dressed in a white mini-dress and go-go boots. Their style sounded more like mainstream rock/pop with a mystical, spooky feel to it and added a trombone and tambourine to their songs.

"I like performing because you get a vibe from the band and the audience and it changes all the time," says Pablo Martin of the Beeps. "It changes all the time and you can tell if you have the right audience or not. A vibe is a thing you just feel and sometimes you don't feel it at all."

The Beeps perform in New York City clubs about once a month but Martin says it's hard to find the right scene for their music.

"It's not the kind of band you hear in New York City very often," Martin says.

Some of The Beeps' music is inspired by the 60's and what members watched on tv and in movies as kids such as The Avengers and The Saint. Holy molars! I was in the Batcave with Adam West when The Beeps played the Batman theme song.

Martin says that each band member adds part of their background to the music, Juan the bass player, is influenced by his native Argentina and British keyboard player Frank, has John Barry and James Bond on the brain when composing music.

"Since half of the band is not American, we also play in (an un-American way), and that, I think adds a lot when you still want to come up with an original sound," Martin says.



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Composers of movie soundtracks also inspire Martin. Favorites include Nino Rota (who wrote music for many of Federico Fellini's films including *La Dolce Vita*), Piero Piccioni, and Ennio Morricone who wrote soundtracks for the Clint Eastwood movies (*A Fistful of Dollars*, *For a Few Dollars More* and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*).

"They [the bands] hit a groove, like they're in the zone and it's a good sound," says Tricia Lynch, an audience member from Brooklyn, New York.

Ceparano says its music off the beaten path.

"You just don't hear a lot of stuff like what we're doing," he says. "It's an alternative to everything else that's going on [in music]."



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