

# Working for the Weekend

// by Tommy Burton

A quick look at the city's music listings in the Jackson Free Press proves that Jackson has no shortage of live music. Venues of all types host events every day. Several artists also show up every week.

These musicians help keep live music going by pleasing audiences everywhere they play.

Artists such as Barry Leach, Larry Brewer, Sid Thompson and Scott Albert Johnson frequent the scene and book their own shows in local venues. They keep themselves busy, too,



Barry Leach

scheduling shows well in advance.

"I have built a name for myself, and people are keen to have me play because they've worked with me before," Brewer says. "I usually book myself three to four months in advance. I also try to survey the audience at each venue and let that influence the material I choose to play."

While some musicians find it easy to book

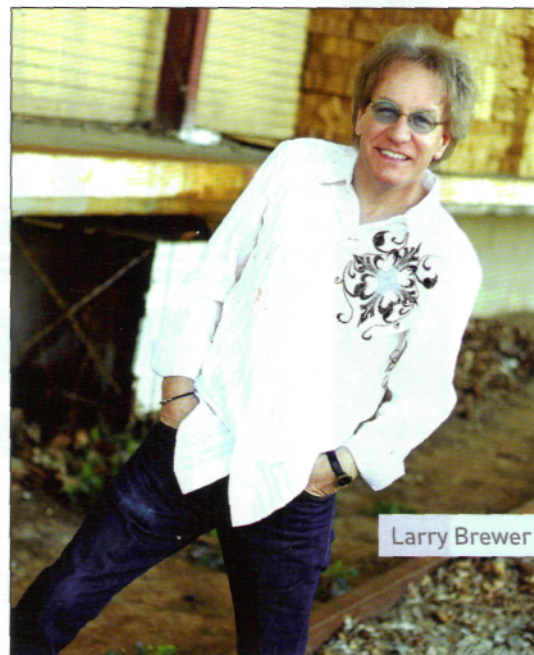
shows, others, such as Leach, must consider which venues would welcome certain types of music and band set-ups.

"Sometimes, during party season, I might have several different types of gigs booked," Leach says. He plays solo, with his jazz trio or with The Vamps depending on the night. "I'm not sure if it's the economy, but I've been booking a lot more solo shows as there are fewer venues for full bands. Some places just prefer solo acts as bands can almost be too much."

Brewer agrees: "Back in the '80s, there were more places for full bands to play. Now, it seems, places are more likely to book a solo or acoustic act. It's probably due to space and noise."

He came to Jackson as a member of '80s-pop band The Windows. His new song, "In My Room," is a jangly, guitar-driven melodic romp worthy of the '60s British pop he grew up loving.

As a founder of the band DoubleShotz, Thompson tries to be adaptable. "We play many types of places and have become pretty versatile in adapting to those places," he says. "Obviously, we're not going to play the same type of show at a restaurant as we would for the late-night crowd. We always try to interact with the audiences and take requests."



Larry Brewer

Either way, all these musicians know what is important when trying to stay on the scene.

"Name recognition helps," Johnson says, putting it simply. "Sometimes I fear I may overbook myself, but it's a continued motivation to stay out there and play shows."

Look for Jackson music listings daily at [jfp.ms/musiclistings](http://jfp.ms/musiclistings). Submit listings to [music@jacksonfreepress.com](mailto:music@jacksonfreepress.com).