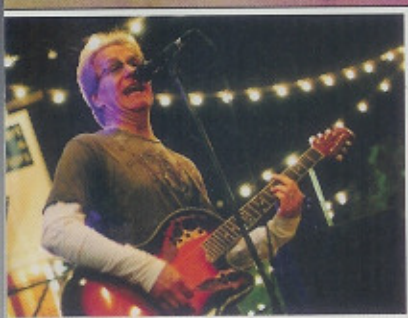




# MUSIC THE SOUND OF FONDREN



Larry Brewer at Fatsumo Sushi

Mississippi is known as the birthplace of American music. So it can be said that Fondren is the continued nurturing of that claim to fame. From multiple performance venues to the young talents who get their start here, Fondren fosters music and arts unlike any other area of the capital city. Countless stories are told of reluctant teens who wished for a video gaming system but instead got guitars.

Those gifts lead to years of lessons - and spots in nationally touring bands or jobs in big city recording studios working with the likes of John Mayer or the Beastie Boys. No, Fondren can't claim to be the birthplace of any particular genre, but the neighborhood can indeed be called a melting pot of influences and styles - and fans. Fans who appreciate the independent spirit that

permeates coffee houses or outdoor patios on a regular basis. And for those who have gone on to the next level, it's possible to see them as they pass through from Atlanta to Austin thanks to Sneaky Beans' Byron Knight. His front porch and back lot stage has played host to numerous regional acts as they criss-cross the country playing festivals and small clubs. And Knight's annual SneakyFest draws crowd-pleasing acts that span the musical spectrum.



Seven thirty at SneakyFest



MS Symphony on the lawn of The Cedars

So where does it start? The welcoming, all ages venues of the neighborhood are the place to hone the craft but to pick it up to begin with, make a visit to Fondren Guitars by Patrick Harkins. His five year old vintage guitar shop gives lessons and has been churning out young virtuosos since day one. And he can set you up with a brand new instrument - or one from back in the days when this whole thing began. Who knows, maybe one of the greats at one time played that very guitar.

Fondren is alive with music - and we like the sound of that.

Be first to know! Concerts, openings, signings & more at [FindItInFondren.com](http://FindItInFondren.com)