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Brent Gallaher to open new jazz club

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Patrick Smith | Contributor

Brent Gallaher lives and breathes jazz music. He plays three instruments – the saxophone, the flute and the clarinet – and he takes on various roles outside of his musicianship, working as a band leader, a teacher and a composer.

Much of his current attention is dedicated toward local groups, boasting positions with both the Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra and the Blue Wisp Big Band, with whom he plays every Wednesday night.

It is his newest endeavor, however, that has the Cincinnati community abuzz: Caffè Vivace, which aims to function as both a coffeehouse and a jazz lounge. It is projected to open its doors this fall in the Trevarren Flats development, located at 975 E. McMillan St.

Gallaher plans for the line between the two identities to be a thin one. Both hard and soft drinks will be served all day long, and the menu will feature a few dishes.

Future visitors of Caffè Vivace will quickly find the musical aspect to be the focal point of this venture, which one would expect from a jazz musician turned entrepreneur. There are already plans in the works for live music Monday through Saturday.

The latter part of the week will be dedicated to more seasoned musicians, but it will be earlier in the week that features an opportunity riper for the younger crowd.

Gallaher said that on one hand, he plans for Tuesday to feature a rotation between CCM/NKU student recitals, performances and high school performances. On the other hand, though, Monday will be a "jam session" day, open to all comers. With this in mind, it may be time for some local students to move the concert from their bedrooms to a more populated venue, one graciously provided by Brett and Caffè Vivace.

Matt Russell, a second-year secondary education student and musical hobbyist, is excited about this new development and the opportunities that come with it.

"For me, as an aspiring musician, this will be an unbelievable chance for me to showcase my talents; and, as someone not very familiar with the jazz



The new jazz club, Caffè Vivace, will be opening in Trevarren Flats in Walnut Hills. (Provided)



genre, I hope to be able to better acquaint myself with it and maybe even find a little inspiration for my own work in the process," said Russell.


Many other local students probably share in his enthusiasm, especially considering the timing of these announcements with the recent release of the jazz-filled "La La Land," a charming musical that will hopefully inspire more of the younger generation to revitalize the fading art that is jazz music.

Either way, the stage seems set for success for Gallaher and his hybrid business. Whether a coffee-lover, a jazz-lover or both, Caffè Vivace seems to be a good preemptive fit. Perhaps one of the former will lead a newfound love for the other. As for me, a musical hobbyist and avid coffee drinker myself, opening day cannot come too soon.

Here's to hoping the notes are flat and the drinks are not, and that proves the compatibility of coffee, live music and all that jazz.

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