



There are usually eight to 12 entertainers on the list and each performer is allowed three songs. This makes the stage available to everyone.

Even newcomers to the island are drawn to the venue. Such is the case with artist David Dantzler, who is originally from Santee, S.C. Dantzler moved to St. Simons Island in February 2008, when he accepted a position as a Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst at the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center in Brunswick. Dantzler is a regular at Open Mic, which he describes as a great way to spend a Monday night. Dantzler has a magnetic personality which is reflected in his ability to entertain a crowd. His performances at Open Mic Night even led to a gig at Pranzo's in Brunswick, an opportunity that otherwise might not have been presented. Artists enjoy a

good round of applause, Clark says, but "there's no higher compliment than being offered a gig."

Some performers write their own music and use Open Mic Night as an opportunity to preview their songwriting abilities. Jared Kuykendall is a crowd favorite who regularly premieres original material. A caddie at Sea Island's Ocean Forest golf club, he's always had a passion for music. He received his first guitar at age 18 and actually taught himself to play. Five years later he wrote his first song and says 30 percent of his music is original material. Kuykendall has played locally at Bubba Garcia's and as the featured entertainment at Palm Coast on Friday nights.

Rose Kennedy takes advantage of the opportunity to perform during Open Mic Night because unlike other venues, she is not limited by her age. Rose is only 17 and not allowed in

local bars. Palm Coasts' Open Mic Night has no age limitations. She is planning to attend Wesleyan College and study music and theater upon her graduation later this year from Frederica Academy. Her talent is obvious, especially as she sings her signature song, "I Want You to Want Me," by Cheap Trick.



*Chad Clark and Jordan Edwards, founders of Open Mic Night and members of Cornpone Nation.*