

A night on the Town-Unwinding with good Friends and Good Music

Written by Marcia Humphrey
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Do you know Bruce Henry? Well you should-in the musical, sense, that is. I was just introduced to his talent about six months ago. He is this wonderfully versatile jazz singer who my husband and I --along with good friends-- had the pleasure of seeing a few Saturdays past at the Dakota Club. I wish you could have been there, too! It felt less like a performance and more like a party, where one of your dear friends just happened to be a world-class vocalist. There was so much excitement, anticipation, and love in the air as Henry had us singing, clapping and dancing in our seats right along with him. It was my idea of a perfect (and healthy) ending to a long and busy week; unwinding in the presence of soul-stirring live music, good food, and good friends.

Our night out at the Dakota was very special for a few reasons. First, we had an opportunity to share our table with two couples with whom we had wanted to get together. In addition, other good friends were there, as well as old friends from church, and many familiar faces. We had fun visiting with each other, introducing friends, and taking pictures before the show started. Even our meal was great. (*If you go soon, you must get the strawberry rhubarb crisp-the best I have ever tasted* .) Next, I was struck by how Henry related to everyone in a very personable way. His family was present and some friends/fans bought him one of his favorites, pecan pie, and he seemed genuinely grateful as he acknowledged them all. In addition, he appeared so proud to highlight his band members' individual talents. Trust me when I tell you that the l-o-v-e was flowing freely and we all felt it. Rather than just going out, we experienced a memorable evening with great friends, good food, and remarkable musicians; this was money well spent.

If it has been awhile since you have had an evening out and you are still questioning if there is really room in your budget, ask yourself this question first: "Have I been wound up too tightly lately?" If the answer is yes, then it is time for you to invest in yourself. You'll be so glad you did and so will your family and friends. Please resist the urge to put it on a credit card. Instead, start stashing a little cash in an envelope or jar. Call it your "I'm-going-out-tonight-fund." By

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adding around \$5 to \$20 dollars each pay period, you'll be ready to party in no time. Wherever you choose to go, remember to invite your fun (*drama-free*) friends only; you'll have the most fun that way. Finally, make sure you check out Bruce Henry online or the next time he rolls into town www.bruceahenry.com/rec for a party. Enjoy!