

# Their Love of Music

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by Stephen Azzato

## *Their Love of Music*

Being a musician myself, I realize the effort associated with “giving a performance.” On the small club-circuit schedule that many of these artists once did or now still do play, it starts with loading a vehicle with all your gear, driving to the location, unloading the gear and then setting up. In some cases, there might even be a long hike from the vehicle to the stage. More often than not, stairs are usually involved as are several unloading trips. Once set up, there is a quick sound check and sometimes even the luxury of a brief rest in the dressing room. Now let’s be clear on the definition of dressing room. It’s not some luxurious quarters with comfortable furniture, a well-stocked bar and added accoutrements such as fresh-cut flowers, bottled water from Fuji and a bowl of M&M’s ... every color BUT red. Rather, it’s more like a closet with a couple of brooms, extra bar chairs, and a janitor’s bucket with a still wet mop inside.

Why would anyone endure this willingly? In case you didn’t know, let me share with you the struggling, touring musicians’ dirty little secret ... it ain’t the money!! That said here’s the only answer I could come up with being a musician of sorts myself and enduring many of the conditions described above (if not worse). It was just plain fun to look out over the audience when performing and see people dancing or singing along to the words. That experience is what made it all worthwhile.

By sitting with and talking to musicians from all levels of notoriety and from all different genres, I was hoping to find out if they too felt it was just plain cool. Or, was there a deeper meaning to the experience – the ordeal, the rigors of the road – perhaps woven into the words of their songs that conveyed what drove them to pursue the art of music. Specifically, what was it that made them practice for hours each day, schlep their own equipment to gigs, and perform the very same songs night after night, over and over again. Was it simply just a love of music?

Seeking these answers was going to be an interesting process to say the least. The journey proved rewarding (as I hope you’ll agree). There were so many very personal, very unique moments of artists revealing themselves that it would be impossible to describe them all here.

Stephen Azzato  
2012



# List of Prints

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*Alice Peacock*

*Allen Toussaint*

*Buddy Guy*

*Dave Brubeck*

*Dave Specter*

*George Thorogood*

*Genevieve Schatz*

*Madeleine Payroux*

*Ramsey Lewis*

*Pinetop Perkins*

Folio

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richard@mackphoto.com | www.steveazzato.com

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