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## The Invaders bring back '60s rock to Brewers' Jam



2003-10-17

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The Knoxville Brewers' Jam, featuring The Invaders, The Throwbacks and Eastwind

WHEN: 3 to 9 p.m. Saturday



WHERE: World's Fair Park, off Henley Street in downtown Knoxville

HOW MUCH: \$25 for adults, \$10 for designated drivers, \$5 for patrons younger than 21



CALL: 521-0092

ON THE WEB: [www.brewersjam.com](http://www.brewersjam.com), [www.theinvaders.net](http://www.theinvaders.net)



By Steve Wildsmith

of The Daily Times Staff

Imagine a supergroup that include a virtual who's who of musicians from the early 1960s.



Pete Townsend on guitar. Mick Jagger singing lead. Paul McCartney on bass and John Lennon on guitar, both adding harmony vocals. And they'd perform songs from their bands' respective catalogues, all the hits from that era.

If it sounds like a dream, it is. But you can check out the next best thing with The Invaders, who perform Saturday as part of the Knoxville Brewers' Jam in World's Fair Park in downtown Knoxville.

The Invaders are a throwback to the era of Ed Sullivan, the days after Kennedy's assassination and before Vietnam when America was just starting to lose its innocence. With their tousled mop-tops and suits, The Beatles looked nice enough, but there was enough swagger and wit to suggest that, beneath it all, they could be very bad boys. Ditto for Jagger and Keith Richards, who looked like waifs compared to their strung-out looks of the mid-1970s.

"We try to recreate the British Invasion," said Invaders bass player Alan Manning. "We don't try to be a tribute band to any particular group. We want to show what it was like to go see one of these original groups live. When you see us, we're still us -- we don't try to

change our accents or personalities to fit one of these particular bands -- but if there was one band that played all of these songs in the early '60s, we represent that."

The British Invasion is the term given to the wave of rock bands from England that stormed American shores, radio and television in the 1960s. The Beatles, The Who, The Kinks, The Animals, The Yardbirds and The Rolling Stones are typically the bands counted among the invasion's "first wave." Manning said The Invaders draw the line at 1967 or '68, when groups like Led Zeppelin and Cream made up the "second wave."

"We stay with the time period when everybody dressed in suits and ties," Manning said. "It was really phenomenal at that point, because most everyone was into Elvis and Buddy Holly, but this was clearly sort of like a new era that started. There was just a lot of upheaval that started happening in the 1960s, and the British Invasion was part of that."

The Invaders began 11 years ago with a concept by Sonny Thrower, who was at The Rolling Stones' 1966 concert in Knoxville. His concept wasn't just about the music, Manning said -- the members have meticulously collected vintage instruments similar to those played by the musicians of that era.

"We're pretty steadfast in maintaining the correct image," Manning said. "We mostly do Beatles and Rolling Stones songs, and we try to do them as well as we can. We do a pretty good representation of each group, and one thing we don't do is try to make everything our song."

"We don't stray away from the original intent of the song. We try to recreate it the way it would have been played live back then. We don't grunge it up or play a bunch of extra leads, and we concentrate on the two- and three-part harmonies and really pick them apart so that we do all three parts correctly."

In addition to Saturday's performance at The Brewers' Jam, The Invaders will perform Thursday at The ThInQ Tank, 106 S. Central St. in Knoxville's Old City, as part of the Heartsong Festival, a fund-raiser for charity. Joining The Invaders will be St. Somewhere, Jen Foster, The Verdicts, Nancy Brennan Strange, Jason D. Williams, Guy and Candy Carawan, Sparky and Rhonda Rucker and the Moonshine Cherrys. The concert lasts from 5 to 10 p.m. and costs \$5, which includes a wristband that allows patrons entry into other clubs after 10 p.m.



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