

Nick Motil Strums Barefoot

Village Club Series' second act of the year exhibited unique sense of humor and heartfelt lyrics

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Issue date: 9/18/07 **Section:** [Arts](#)

Nick Motil came to rock the Village Club Series, and he did just that with his entertaining and energetic performance last Thursday night at the Benjamin Mays Center. The added bonus of chai and cookies made the night only that much sweeter for the singer/songwriter from Las Vegas.

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Motil has been touring the country promoting his three albums and teaching the world that it's okay to be barefoot. He has toured with such greats as Jason Mraz, The Verve Pipe and Chantal Kreviazuk, and he has sold 5,000 albums to date. With no formal representation, he is "all ears" to any sort of management or label representation, but he has become used to doing all the work by himself and that is fine by him.

His single "Perfectly Connected" has recently hit the radio and continues to climb the charts. He hopes anyone who enjoyed his performance at Bates will call local radio stations to help elevate his song to the next level. With influences from artists such as Paul Simon, Dave Matthews and James Taylor, his captivating style turns any new listener into a new fan.

As soon as Motil walked on stage he lit up the room with his dulcet voice and bright smile. His voice was reminiscent of a young Paul Simon, his guitar brought Dave Matthews to mind, and his rhythm could have been found in any Jason Mraz tune. Yet, something makes him unique from all of the above - his lyrics hit the listener on a personal level. Whether it's anticipating love or regretting the one you lost, anyone can relate. He poured his heart out in "Home," a song inspired by his brother and now sister-in-law, and he captured the audience with the catchy "Perfectly Connected."

His acoustic set proved his passion, drive and ability to put on a great one-man show. He also added his own flare to covers of tracks, such as "3 a.m." by Matchbox 20, "Hallelujah" by Martin Sexton and a personal favorite, "0% Interest" by Jason Mraz. What made the performance for me was Motil's ability to enjoy the show as much as his audience did. He cracked jokes as he tuned, he told stories "that he swore did not get any better," he sang a melody of some songs like "Hollaback Girl," and he even rapped.

Before and after the show I was able to chat with Motil, who was more than happy to shoot me a few answers and make me laugh. He enjoys playing at the Double Door in Chicago and dreams of playing at the Nightclub 9:30 in D.C., the House of Blues in Cleveland, and Schubas in Chicago.

When Motil is not on tour, he is hanging out with family, traveling to Phoenix or just being lazy. If you're wondering about his constant barefeet, he used to play a lot of shows in the summer and never wore shoes. Plus, his mom was not keen to scuffs on her carpet. He is also sorry if any readers were looking for a deeper meaning; he was on the spot and could not exaggerate one. But don't let that stop you from buy any of his music, now available on iTunes, or from visiting his websites at either www.nickmotil.com or www.myspace.com/motillive .