

Local Artists Gather at Bistro for Open-Microphone Performances

By **Monica Hoang**

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Hayward may not be known as a cultural Mecca, but a local venue called the Bistro fills part of the artistic void, showcasing a variety of local artists.

Situated at the corner of B and Main streets in downtown Hayward, the Bistro offers everything from gospel to alternative music to love poems.

Jan. 26, over the course of three hours, a multitude of artists performed a variety of acts. Each performer was allowed 10 minutes of stage time.

The event was presented by The Book Shop, next door to the Bistro. Church Jenn acted as the evening's host.

The small café exudes a welcoming warmth and coziness. Part of the Bistro's charm is the décor: Saxophones and violins adorn the walls, along-

side historical photographs.

As the event started, people filled the seats at the tables, then the stools running the length of the wooden bar.

The audience was a mixed bag of backgrounds and ages.

Local artists who wanted to perform signed up as they walked in, and as each 10-minute show ended, a new artist stepped up to the stage.

Some musicians brought their own instruments and equipment, while some just brought their smiles.

The first performer on stage was Cindy, a local gospel singer, who brought her own boom box and sang, "Our God is an Awesome God." Her facial

expressions and projected emotions enthralled the audience.

Musician Sherry Barret showcased her guitar talents with three songs, one of which was Celine Dion's "I'm Your Lady."

"I moved to Hayward from Fre

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