

Encore!

A -18—year-old John Neville, who is a bass guitarist in a buzz band, has his finger on the pulse of the popular music scene. “I usually check out the web, and then follow the music of groups I consider worthwhile. I want to see if they’re just as good on stage as they are online,” he says. “It is great being there up close with people who play the same music as you, and who play in the same world as you do,” he says. “The crowd chants but I watch intently, tuning into the finer points. For me, seeing other buzz bands perform is sort like doing homework.” John ingers around the side of the stage, waiting for the buzz band’s break to strike up a conversation. He interacts and networks. “The more I learn, the closer I get to my dream,” says John. He’s just your average buzz band member – virtually unknown today, perhaps a household name tomorrow.



B-Anne Landers, age 15, is a *Bryn Christopher* fan. His posters are plastered all over the room and his music has been blasting from her iPod since she first heard it. She likes everything about him- his voice, his face, his hair and the fact that he’s just a nice guy. “He is a guy living his dream,” says Anne. Recently, Anne’s own dream came true when her parents agreed to let her go to her idol’s concert. “Cindy and I had been counting down the moments for our first ever live concert,” she said. “Once there, we could not believe that it was really happening. Our knees trembled.” Anne and her friend waited for 45 minutes in a line to buy an overpriced Christopher T-shirt. “You just don’t worry about getting a value-for-money deal on a t-shirt during a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” she explains. “I lost myself in the music,” says Anne. “I feel changed. I went to a concert and I will never be the same again.”

C- The first time 16-year-old Diana Brady heard singer *Joe Pug* spill out his heart at a local concert hall, it sent shivers down her spine. “I never really liked country music until then,” she says. “I was only at the concert because my mother is a coat check attendant and had asked for my assistance that night. I brought a book with me to read for when the work died down, but I heard Pug crooning my name – he was singing *Speak Plainly*, Diana- so I could not help but take a peek,” she says. “His voice oozed with kindness, and the song pulled at my heartstrings.”

D- At the age of 17, Gordon Lewis is already a seasoned concert-goer. “It is not just the joy of seeing my favorite bands perform live that draws me,” he confides, adding that it’s always the same feeling, regardless of who the performer is. “I’m an addicted to the energy you feel at the arena or any large music venue. At some point we all just get mixed together. You cannot help but be swallowed up by the sweating, breathing, jumping crowd,” he says. “The highlight comes when all distances disappear and you become one with the music. It pulses right through you as it comes alive”

E- At the tender age of 16, Al Windross has vowed never to go to a concert again. “It seems that every concert I go to is jinxed,” he says. My first concert was a show with rapper Eminem. It turns out he didn’t show up so fans began to riot. My brother and I were lucky to come out alive.” This was not enough to stop Al from attending concerts. “My brother is a fan of *Melisa Young* so we went to the *Kid Sister Concert*. Everything was fine until she pulled my brother up onto the stage

with her," says Al. "They danced around and then disappeared backstage. She came back without him, we got separated and I had to walk home alone in the night. My third concert was not much better, even though I went without my brother this time," says Al. "The show was great until someone threw a bottle onto the stage. The singer left the show and that was the end of the concert. So much money for just half an hour's show!"

A. Read the full text and for questions 1-13, choose from the people A-E. They may be chosen more than once.

Which person/people....

1. didn't pay an admission fee to attend? _____
2. got a souvenir at the music venue? _____
3. didn't expect to enjoy themselves but did? _____
4. gets to meet the performers on the night of their concert? _____
5. has been to quite a few concerts so far? _____
6. believes that going to concerts helps them learn something? _____
7. enjoys not only the music but also the action going on? _____
8. identifies with the performers? _____
9. has been to concerts where the crowd behaved badly? _____
10. might become famous in the future? _____
11. was moved by a song? _____
12. talk about the first concert they ever went to? _____
13. were overcharged for what they got? _____

B. After reading the five extracts, match the words underlined in the text with their meanings from A- L.

1) Have your finger	.....	a) Place
on the pulse	.....	b) Covered
2) Lingers	.....	c) Murmuring gently
3) Strike up	.....	d) Sing
4) Plastered	.....	e) Updated
5) Blasting	.....	f) Brought bad luck
6) Spill out	.....	g) Express freely
7) Crooning	.....	h) Stay longer than necessary
8) Oozed	.....	i) Beats
9) Venue	.....	j) Making a loud sound
10) Pulsates	.....	k) Promised
11) Vowed	.....	l) Emitted slowly
12) Jinxed	.....