

Nice has a long established live music scene. Many ex-pat musicians settle here having been seduced by Nice's fun and varied nightlife. The Old Town is the hub of the action and here you'll find a great community of local talented musicians, all driven with a huge passion to entertain and share their music with you.

We asked a few of our favourites to answer a few questions for our readers.

Let me entertain you

<http://www.myspace.com/davidzinckemusic>



David Zincke England

The music? Folk and country, blues, his own originals, classic ballads and popular music covers.

Where can you find him? Every Thursday in Wayne's Bar from 7pm-9pm and then Shapko Bar from 10pm-midnight.

Pebbles loves him because: David has shared stages with many famous artists including Gomez, The Doves, The Levellers and Lily Allen, yet despite his fantastic talent, he's one of the most humble guys we know. He's also very charismatic and audiences love him and his smooth melodic music that has mass appeal.

Why did you come to Nice?

I came to Nice like most musicians I know, to play music. There are a lot of venues to play, and it's great practice. Oh and the sunshine.

How long have you been performing?

For about eleven years now, seven professionally.

Have any bands shaped your music?

Yes, bands like The Beatles, Gomez, Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles and artists such as Beck, Robert Johnson and Kelly Joe Phelps.

What have you been doing in 2011, and what's next?

I've just finished performing with Medi in Paris at le Café de la Danse. I'm just about to release a follow-up EP to my album, Lost at Land, which will be free to download from iTunes soon, and I'm just about to start recording my next album.

Anything you want to add?

Thank youuuuuuu!

Phil Jones & The Drama Queens Hollywood, UK & Russia

The music?

Vocal jazz, swing. Think Dean Martin or The Buena Vista Social Club and you are almost there. Phil may even break into a rendition of Britney Spears.

Where can you find them? Shapko Bar every Sunday evening from 8:30pm.

Pebbles loves them because: We love their onstage banter; they don't take themselves seriously despite being very talented. Their zest for life and energy is very evident in their performances. So if you're curious, you'll just have to go along and see them perform for yourself!

What kind of music do you play?

Anything silly.

So introduce yourselves.

We already know each other, don't we?

Why did you come to Nice?

We're in Nice!

How did you come up with your name?

OMG not again! Like, whatever!

How long have you been performing together?

We are not together, we are just friends!

What's next?

World domination.

Anything you want to add?

I always had difficulty with an abacus.

Marjorie Martinez France

The music? Folk and blues and their own originals.

Where can you find them? Shapko Bar, Le Comptoir, Ma Nolan's in Nice, Morrison's in Cannes.

Pebbles loves her because: Marjorie has a unique voice, which is pure and smooth but she can also 'rock'.

So introduce yourselves.

The band is:

Marjorie Martinez: acoustic guitar

Léopoldo Giannola: electric guitar

Alain Asplanato: drums

Antonio Sgro: electric bass

Why did you come to Nice?

I was born in Marseille but I've lived in Nice since I was five.

How long have you been performing together?

It's been two years that we've met, since we play together around the Côte d'Azur.

What's next?

My band and me recently recorded my first album (singing in English)! The album will be released really soon!





**Peter Cogavin,
from Pete and Folks •
Ireland**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pete-and-Folks/163128870374538>

The music? Folk ballads to soul, a mix of rhythm, blues and rock.

Where can you find them? Thursday evenings at Master Home for a nice apéritif from 7-10pm, Wayne's Bar on Sundays as a quartet from 8-10pm every week. Also found at Shapko Bar, Snug and Cellar and Bar des Oiseaux.

Pebbles loves him because: Pete is a down to earth guy and a genuine artist in every sense of the word. Aside from singing and playing the guitar he can turn his hand to song writing, photography and even painting. You can see some of his work displayed on the walls of the Snug and Cellar in the Old Town.

Tell us what music means to you.

I love any music, any art really, which is created with love, honesty and care and I try to do the same when I play!!

So introduce yourselves.

I'm Pete, I'm Irish, and play guitar and sing. I have been in Nice for about two and a half years and am proud to be part of a music scene here that is a breeding ground for sharing music, ideas, advice and sometimes instruments and amplifiers! I play mostly with a group of musicians that go by the name 'Pete and Folks', based around a trio with Italian bass player, Guido Bistarelli, a Swedish keyboard player, Marcus Sylvan and myself. We also sometimes perform as a four or five piece band including a drummer and harmonica player!

Why did you come to Nice?

I originally came to Nice as an English teacher at the university here, but soon became drawn into the music scene. There's something about the amount of live music in Nice (particularly in the Old Town) that creates a unique atmosphere, and once you become a part of it, it gets a hold of you! There's a community of musicians here that you don't find everywhere — extremely talented, but also always willing to help each other out where they can. On any given night in Nice, it's not unusual to find five musicians on stage playing together who speak five different languages, but can create great music together by communicating in their own way. I think that's something I love about playing with Marcus and Guido, is that we manage to be on the same page musically when at times we're not even sure what language we're speaking!

What's next?

I'm currently working on original stuff with the 'folks' that will hopefully be recorded in spring. For sneak previews, you'll have to pop along to a show!



**Brights Lights
South Yorkshire, England**

The music? Popular covers.

Where can you find them? Wayne's Bar, Shapko Bar, Akathor and Blue Whales.

Pebbles loves them because: These four lads from Yorkshire really get us in the party mood. With their selection of pop/rock tunes anything from a melody of Queen hits to Killers.

What kind of music do you play?

A man in London once called it 'Piano pumping indie rocking artistry'. He was drunk. We play a mix from the 60's onwards featuring Queen, The Beatles, Killers, Coldplay and U2. Popular songs for everyone to enjoy.

So introduce yourselves.

I'm Damien. I play the piano. Chris sings and strums, Simon plays the bass, and Joe hits anything within a 5-yard radius.

www.brightslightsband.com

Why did you come to Nice?

South Yorkshire has many similarities; pigeons and... no wait. Just pigeons. We came here mainly to work, but who wouldn't want to live on the French Riviera! The people are great, the weather even better, and we absolutely love every minute of it.

How did you choose your name?

I was going to make up a very long and poetic story, but the truth is...we stole it from a band in Grimsby.

How long have you been performing together?

We've been working together for around five years now. I met Joe after moving to Hull and reading an advert on a wall for a band. We took our recordings to a new studio to be mixed and realised the guy mixing was a very handsome and talented man. He later became our singer/guitarist. We found Simon in a bush.

What's next?

We're really looking forward to our first summer in Nice. We've had previous short stays out here but it's great to be sticking around. We love to meet all sorts of weird and wonderful people and having a great time; there's no better feeling than standing on stage sharing amazing nights and memories with everyone in the room. Long may it continue.

Anything you want to add?

Thanks for having us in Nice Pebbles!

Breathe

The music? Popular, belt-them-out classics

Where can you find them? Wayne's Bar

Pebbles loves them because: They may not be the best vocally talented, but there's no denying the fantastic showmanship. The vibe this band creates is electric and a huge amount of fun.

What kind of music do you play?

A huge range of popular hits from the 60's to present day, usually with some made-up lyrics, bad humour and general 'kerling about' thrown in to add a little bit of extra pizzazz!

Why did you come to Nice?

Have you ever lived in Huddersfield?

How did you come up with your name?

We were originally called Breather but were contacted by Sony Music in the late nineties (we were a touring original material band at the time) and threatened with legal action if we kept the name as they had an artist with the same. Cheaper to just lose a letter I thought!

How long have you been performing together?

I (Justin) am the only surviving member of the original line up and over the past few years have played with musicians from around the world (over 70 have come and gone). But Franck Borreill (bassist) has been my partner in crime for the last four years or so and more recently Scott Richman, a fellow English man, has joined us along with Matthieu Saqué on lead guitar and vocals bringing together the tightest most accomplished and entertaining line up to date.

Where can we find you performing?

We spread our wings far and wide from St-Tropez to San Remo (Italy), Milan, London (and the UK) including pretty much every town in between. The best thing to do is check local listings or visit our MySpace page or justinjamieson on Facebook.

What's next?

Another huge season line up this year with a swing towards some more high profile bigger budget work as our show has sparked an interest with some major player agencies here on the Riviera...and who are we to argue?

