

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sophia's Thai Bar & Kitchen
129 E Street, Suite E (in between 1st and 2nd street)
Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (530) 758-4333
Business Office: (530) 758-5893
Fax: (530) 758-5927

email: booking@sophiasthaikitchen.com
website: <http://www.sophiasthaikitchen.com/>
myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/sophiasthaikitchen>

Contacts:

Kevin Wan, Owner, Booking: kevin@sophiasthaikitchen.com
Michael Leahy, Talent Buyer: coolasfolkradio@gmail.com

Sophia's is a "21 and over" venue. As a patron, you need to be at least 21 years of age to gain admittance into the bar and need to present proof of your age with a government issued photo ID to our door staff. We will not accept "I'm with the band" nor will we accept "I forgot it at home and drove all the way from San Francisco/Los Angeles/Wisconsin to come to this show." Unfortunately we allow no leniency in this regard. Please don't ask us to admit friends or family members who are under 21. There is plenty of seating along the perimeter of the bar and on the adjacent deck ("Balcony B") where people of all ages can watch, listen, mingle, and litter. While there is a place for your all-ages fanbase, you should still promote/list the show as 21+. If you and/or a band member are under 21, that's OK, but we need to be notified ahead of time. We always reserve the right to not admit customers into the bar (particularly the really *really* drunk ones). We've been burned in the past making exceptions so we aren't making them any more. Sorry. It happens that liquor licenses are a hard thing to get but an easy thing to lose.

Please designate ONE point-person with whom we can deal, ONE person with whom we can talk, assign dates, return calls, discuss special needs, payment, and all things in between. It makes everything much easier as something inevitably falls through the cracks if we have to talk with the drummer, then the lead singer, then the band manager, then the bassist's girlfriend. Please make sure that this point-person has a working cell phone (which they own themselves) and an email address that isn't recognized as spam.

Once you've booked your gig, we highly recommend, if possible, you come and check out the venue before playing here for the first time. Ours is a unique space and a very different situation in which to play. If it doesn't require you to fly out of LaGuardia, try and come out on a night when another band is playing. Who knows? You might find you have some special requirements or perhaps get some great ideas about your presentation. If you can't make it out but know of others who have played here, reach out to them and ask if they have any advice for your gig. Overall, it's just a good thing to know what kind of space you're playing so you don't arrive and encounter any surprises.

OPENING ACTS & PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS

Most of our shows are double or triple bills. We usually put the bills together ourselves and we do our best to ensure the bills make sense for all parties. If you have an idea for an opener or are packaged with your own support, this is cool too. Just let us know what you have in mind. Please DO NOT bring an unannounced performer to play a "special set". We're fine with guest musicians sitting in with you, just not impromptu sets by strangers. Also, please let us know in advance if you require a signed performance agreement.

COMPENSATION & PAYMENT

In order to fairly compensate the artists that come through our little place, 100% of the money collected at the door goes to the bands. Our main source of revenue comes from food and liquor sales; we're not looking to profit from the door. Money collected goes solely to covering the guarantees and we pass on the overage. Unless otherwise arranged with us in advance, Sophia's pays a flat guarantee to each headlining artist that is agreed upon before the gig. For bills put together by the band and not our booker, it is up to the headlining artist to pay the opener. For bills put together by our booker and not the artist, the house will pay each act individually. You must wait until the end of the evening to receive payment. Sophia's normally pays in cash. If you require another form of payment, please arrange this ahead of time with the booker. We do not fill out a Form 1099 nor do we require bands to fill out a W-9 because we are lazy and because we are not assholes.

We will do our best to be as fair as possible when it comes to the split, but please understand that our venue is small and is financially unable to support high performance fees. We like to keep our covers low in order to encourage foot traffic and make the bar as accessible as possible. We get a lot of foot traffic, so don't worry. You'll do alright.

CONFIRMATION

All bands must confirm their gig with the booker via email within 7 days of receiving their confirmation email. If you do not make contact with the booker, we reserve the right to cancel or reschedule your gig.

LIVE SOUND / EQUIPMENT

Mackie 1604-VLZ3 Pro 16-Channel Mixing Board
Roland SDE delay/Yamaha reverb effects • Alto ACL4 compressor
QSC HPR153i Mains • Renkus-Heinz 15" wedges
Shure Beta 58a (4), Shure SM58 (2), Shure SM57 (3), Sennheiser e609 (2), Shure Beta 52a
4 Whirlwind Director DI Boxes
6 boom stands, 1 straight stand

Yeah, it's nothing fancy. But it does the job for the outdoor space. Feel free to bring along any additional/custom equipment you might want to use (excluding smoke machines, disco lights, lasers and the like). If you want to use your own PA, you can do that too (just let us know in advance), though unless you're über-snobby, you'll find ours is more than adequate for the space. Again, we're small; you won't need much to play our space. It's very VERY important to make sure you bring along any additional extension cords, XLRs, 1/4" cables, power cords, etc. if you use a ton of instruments, as we have a limited supply on hand. We don't have a lot of space to store a lot of boxes or cases, so please keep these to a minimum or plan on loading them back into your vehicle.

LOAD IN & SOUND CHECK

Our shows usually begin at 9:30 or 10:00. We don't have any specific arrival times. Just give yourself enough time to set up effectively and sound check, but also leave room to relax, have a beer, and chat up friends beforehand. Generally an hour is enough for most bands to get situated, but if you need more time, feel free to come earlier. Just make sure you let the booker know exactly when you'll be arriving (and also if you'll be late). The room requires that we move tables out of the way—as well as customers—so it helps us to know when we should do that.

The sound engineer usually arrives at 8:00. You don't have a sound check, per se, but an adequate line check prior to your set.

SET LENGTH

This depends on the night and the number of people on the bill, but here is the common breakdown:

Two-Act Bill

Opener/Support: 10:00 p.m. / 45 min set

Headliner: 11:15 p.m. / 75 min set

Three-Act Bill

Opener: 10:00 p.m. / 25 min set

Support: 10:30 p.m. / 45 min set

Headliner: 11:30 p.m. / 60 min set

If you or your group is playing the entire evening, you are allowed an aggregate total of 20 minutes for breaks/set changes. This usually works out to two 10 minute breaks, but we leave it up to you to divide the time. Sets should be a minimum of 50 minutes.

DECIBEL LIMIT

We're a small room and we don't require a whole lot of volume. In addition, your audience is very, very close to you while you are performing. Because of this, we ask that you keep your decibel level at a *reasonable* level. What is reasonable? Hard to say. Just *play the room*—loud enough to be heard, but low enough so the audience is still comfortable. We've estimated this to be around 85db for our space. The sound engineer or booker will let you know if you are too loud. If we have to repeatedly ask that you lower your volume, we reserve the right to cut the gig short. That will be a last resort, for sure, but we ultimately have to look after the safety of our customers, and blowing out peoples' eardrums at 150 db's just drives people away. Our space only requires a small drum kit and we strongly recommend drummers use brushes or hot rods/bundles if your music involves a lot of snare and cymbal. If playing at low levels compromises your artistic integrity, then we're probably not a good gig for you, integrity-wise, so don't book with us.

GUEST LISTS

Each band is entitled to have a certain number of guests enter the bar for free. This number is arbitrary, but it's usually 2 guests per performing band member, with a limit of 10 people total. If you feel you can draw more people out to your event with an extended guest list, feel free to communicate that to us and we'll work it out. Lists must be provided BEFORE your gig begins (10 p.m.) and given to the security manager. Sophia's always reserves the right to have a house guest list.

STAFFING

We always provide all the necessary staff to run the event from our end. This includes door staff, sound engineer & bartenders. Our door staff collects the money if there is a cover. If you have any special staffing needs (e.g. merch rep), please let the booker know ahead of time. We do not have a house merchandise seller.

HOSPITALITY/RIDERS

We want to make you and your band as comfortable as possible here at Sophia's. As part of your compensation, each performing member of the band will receive 2 drink tickets. Also, you are more than welcome to come early and enjoy dinner at the restaurant. Due to past complications with food discounts, we no longer offer food hospitality. Unless arranged otherwise, all meals must be consumed before 9:00 p.m. and it is highly recommended you arrive around 7:00 p.m. at the latest in order to be seated and finished in time for your performance. The restaurant is busy, especially on Fridays, and the wait times can stretch to 45 minutes or longer.

If you have a rider, feel free to send it, but please know we are usually not able to honor 80% of the requests we commonly see. This will probably be the case for you. But we promise we'll give it the old college try.

We unfortunately don't have a "green room." We do have an area where you can store your belongings. It is not painted green, rather more of a brownish-olive. If you need to change clothes, our bathrooms are single room, clean, and lock from the inside.

Do not bring any outside alcohol or controlled substances of any kind onto the premises. Ever. Such an act will promptly get your gig cancelled and ban you from future performances.

MERCHANDISE

Sophia's does not take a percentage of your merch sales. Once again, we're not assholes.

We like to have merchandise tables set up at the foot of the entrance to the bar. This way, you get people coming in and going out looking at your stuff. If you have your own merch person, they can camp out there. Otherwise our doorman can look after your stuff and sell the merch for you. Please take a personal inventory of your stuff and also inform the doorman the price of each item.

Since you are working on a guarantee, *please no tip jars*.

PROMOTION & MARKETING

How you promote your gig ultimately determines your performance's success. We hope each artist who performs at Sophia's will promote the show as much as possible. If you have cards, handbills, or posters that we can display in and around the venue, feel free to give them to us for distribution.

We ask that you provide the following items:

- **Your website:** Upon confirming a show, we will link to you on our website. We ask that you do the same on yours. Please list us as "Sophia's" or "Sophia's Thai Kitchen". Not "Sofie's".
- **Digital band photo:** Also for our website, in jpeg format if possible.
- **Show description:** Please provide a *short*, informational blurb about your band that you would like published on our website and in our press releases. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.
- **MP3:** Please email us a promotional MP3 for use to stream on our website. The track will be placed immediately under your show description.
- **Latest CD:** Please mail us your current CD. We play selections as tweener music during set changes during the weeks before your gig.
- **Show posters:** Send us at least 6, ideally 8-10, posters that we can put up on our bulletin boards and around town. Please send them at least a month before your gig. Not a week. We can fill out the dates, times, and support for you.

LOCAL PRESS CONTACTS

California Aggie (UC Davis Campus Paper)
Justin T. Ho, Arts Editor
arts@theaggie.org

Davis Enterprise
Derrick Bang, Arts Editor: dbang@davisenterprise.net
Landon Christensen: landonissuch@hotmail.com

Sacramento News & Review
Jackson Griffith: trustyouears@newsreview.com
Becca Costello: beccac@newsreview.com (arts grid) sactocalendar@newsreview.com
Emily Page: emilyp@newsreview.com

Sacramento Bee
Rita Blomster, Entertainment Editor: rblomster@sacbee.com.
Sarah Lopez Williams, Features Editor/Lifestyle: swilliams@sacbee.com
Kevin McKenna, Deputy Features Editor: kmckenna@sacbee.com
Arts Calendar: featcal@sacbee.com

Radio:

KDVS att: Michael Leahy
14 Lower Freeborn Hall
Davis, CA 95616
www.KDVS.org

DRAW EXPECTATIONS/RADIUS

We want your gig to be a success, both for you and us, and the best way to measure that is the number of people who come out and buy beverages on the night of your gig. When we book you, we expect you to draw as much of your friends/fan base as possible. This isn't really a requirement, but it goes a very long way in getting a future booking here, as well as getting a recommendation from us should another venue inquire. You should feel comfortable with the following numbers:

For local Davis bands, we expect you to draw around 75 people.
For Sacramento/Bay Area bands, we expect you to draw around 30 people.
For out of town/touring artists, we expect you to just play well.

Really, draw really isn't a huge issue here. We get a lot of foot traffic and have a nice built-in draw for you. At Sophia's, we consider a night where 150-200 people coming through the door after 9 p.m. a successful evening. Some nights attract over 300 people. In order to ensure that you are drawing as much of your fan base as possible, we ask that you not over play the area. We ask that bands not play in Davis within 2 weeks before or after their scheduled gig at Sophia's. Any exceptions to this request need to be arranged with the booker.

CANCELLATIONS

As mentioned above, because you play outside, your gig is subject to cancellation due to inclement weather. (Note: we consider inclement weather an "Act Of God" in the case there is a signed performance agreement.) Cancellation is part of the risk of playing here and it is required that bands assume this risk when they agree to book the date. Our patio is covered, so rain is not an issue, but lightning and high winds pose a danger to you and the public. The chance is small, but it's still a chance. We've done our best to come up with a fair policy that ensures both parties are comfortable with the booking. Please don't book a gig here if you can't agree to the following terms:

- On the day of the show, bands cancelled before 5 p.m. are not entitled to any compensation.
- Bands cancelled between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. are entitled to 1/2 of the agreed compensation.
- Bands cancelled after arriving at the venue are entitled to full compensation without performance.

If you are arriving from out of town and require a different timeline, please communicate this to us when you book your gig and we will provide one to which both parties can agree.

EMERGENCIES/CANCELLATIONS

If you have an emergency or need to cancel your appearance on the day of the show, you must contact us via phone. Contact the booker or call our business office at 530-758-5893.

VENUE HISOTRY

We were born in the Fall of 2001, originally just as an overflow bar area for our Thai restaurant. On a whim, we began hosting local bands in the Spring and then moved to jazz the following year. In the summer of 2005, we would host the occasional independent artist, musicians passing by looking for a college-town venue outside of a coffeehouse to build their draws. Since then we have expanded our schedule to 3 shows weekly, have been voted "Best Live Music Venue" by various local publications, and have been one of the top indie music destinations in the Central Valley.

We're located in the heart of downtown Davis, smack-dab in the middle of the city's retail and restaurant core. We get a fair amount of foot traffic, a lot of it made-up of college music junkies, so hopefully we'll be a good way for you to sell some merch and introduce yourselves to some new fans.

We are a relatively low capacity venue (i.e. we're small). Our staging and viewing area is probably no larger than a medium sized Starbucks seating area. We can hold an audience of about 75 comfortably, but yes, we've had about 100 or so out there on certain nights, not including "Balcony B" and the sidewalk, which can double that number. We're definitely intimate, but we're still fun.

There isn't a stage per se, but there is a staging area that's approximately 11' x 9'. We do have stage lights, and they are pretty and of the red and blue variety. We have yellow and green gels too, but no matter how attractive you are or find yourself to be, they will make you look like you have jaundice. We do not recommend the yellow and green gels.

We are an outdoor gig. This has an upside and downside. The upside is that it's nice to play outside, fun even. And evenings in Davis during the warmer months are awesome, ranging from the mid 60's to the high 70's. Playing outside also gives you a chance to draw people off the street. The downside is that the weather will affect your gig. Sometimes the nights can be excruciatingly hot, no fun if you play wooden instruments. Also, your show is subject to a cancellation in the rare event of an electrical storm. Don't worry. We'll give you plenty of notice if we call off the gig and our cancellation policies are outlined above. During the week before gig, we recommend visiting www.weather.com. **DO NOT BOOK WITH US IF YOU ARE ADVERSE TO POSSIBLE CANCELLATION DUE TO LIGHTNING.**

Even though we're an intimate space, we shouldn't be confused with a coffeehouse. Sophia's is not really a "listening room." We're most definitely a bar, a bar in a college town at that, and we come complete with a bona-fide college bar clientele that doesn't always possess the best concert etiquette. While we usually have a wonderful, receptive audience, occasionally they can be inattentive and chatty so please be okay with that and check the attitude at the door. People who talk while you're playing do, in fact, suck royally, but please do not lecture the audience on how not show up to the bar if they don't want to hear music. Really, that doesn't benefit anyone, most of all you and your music. If a chatty audience bothers you then perhaps we aren't the right gig for you. We understand that. You are attached to your words and your sounds and it can be distracting and a bummer if 6 people in the back are being inconsiderate. But remember that despite the talkers, there are also people who came to see you, people there to engage your music, and that's what's important.

Oh, and the smoking. Because it's an outdoor gig, there will be smokers out with you. If you have an allergy, an aversion to second-hand smoke, a vendetta against the tobacco industry, or just hate the way people look with cigarettes in their mouth, like they're trying to be all cool or something, please know this beforehand and be prepared to tolerate the patrons who light up.

We don't have a parking lot, but we do have plenty of street parking in front of the bar (E street), which is usually pretty easy to get and is ideal for loading in and out. Don't park in the lot next door; you'll get towed. Behind us (D street), there is a bank with a large lot where it's OK to park after 7 p.m.

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We truly hope all this information helps make your performance a great and successful event. If you need any additional information that isn't covered here, or have any questions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to having you here with us!