

# The Arts

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## Quotable

"After silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music..."

— Aldous Huxley



Lidia Galvan/Experience

In the midst of a guitar riff, former student Terrence Brewer sits in the LMC Recital Hall. He is getting ready for the upcoming spring concert on Monday, April 10 in which he is scheduled to perform.

## Passions fulfilled musically

**“The teachers try to guide you as opposed to break you.”**

— Terrence Brewer

By CONTESSA ABONO  
Staff Writer

Casually breezing into the room as if one of his across-the-board jazzy songs followed behind him, Terrence Brewer sat down to talk about his favorite subject: music. Smiling from ear-to-ear, he chatted about his life, career and experiences at Los Medanos College.

Originally from the East Bay, Brewer attended Pittsburg High School and was in jazz band. As a saxophone player, he was most excited when his school had the chance to be a part of the LMC Jazz Festivals. Being able to see what the college students were up to musically was a huge inspiration to his musicianship.

“I remember being in high school and looking up to the kids in college. I remember wanting to be apart of it,” Brewer said.

After hearing a jazz guitar performance at one of the LMC spring concerts, he fell in love with its sound. “You can’t pick what you love, the instrument picks you,” said Brewer.

From then on Terrence knew he wanted to be a jazz guitarist.

“When I talked to music instructor John Maltester that day, I told him I was going to LMC in the fall and

I would be playing jazz guitar. When he asked me if I even had a guitar I told him no, but that I was going to get one,” Brewer said.

He shrugged his shoulders and no one really thought I was serious. So that summer I did get a guitar and practiced almost eight hours a day.

“By fall I came to LMC and tried out for both sax and guitar and made both. Going from sax to guitar wasn’t that hard for me because I knew music theory already; the process was almost more physical to learn,” said Brewer.

Terrence started at LMC in 1993 right out of high school. He wasn’t sure what he would be doing but knew whatever it was it was going to involve music. Taking a lot of different classes he really got to know the music instructors Mike Williams and John Maltester. He studied the sax and guitar. He loved jazz and classic styles and really learned, “the whole ball of wax,” Brewer said.

The new recording arts building was just being finished at this time and Terrence and other music students were able to use these faculties as well. “The Jazz band was really used as ginny pigs for the recording arts students. We never mined though because whatever was done in the recording studio

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we could use as demos to give to venues; it was a great opportunity," said Brewer.

After receiving his A.A. in Music, Brewer stuck around the Bay Area playing clubs and making a living playing

music, private lessons and composing. He loves to play music with friends and to solo as well, "The way jazz works, it's pretty much freelance. There are people I have a consisting roster going with but generally not a band per se. You have a handful of people you know that playing every interment and when there is a show I call them and we work it out. These musicians are my friends. As oppose to just a set band you have a family of people you work with," said Brewer.

Recently Brewer has started an independent record label and self-produced two full-length albums entitled, "The Calling: Volume One and Volume Two."

He describes his sound as all original music that is the style of essential straight-ahead jazz. He follows the traditions of Miles Davis, Wes Montgomery, and Charles Parker but more of a modern extension of them. "I cover a lot of bases, really bluesy stuff, heavy-back-beats and mellow swing stuff on there. That's what I like as a composer, to express that all. I'm not just a bluesy composer I have all those aspects to express. All the emotions, from sad to happy and fun as well," said Terrence.

Brewer feels taking the LMC music course helped and influenced his sound and composing abilities. "LMC had a huge influence on me. The quality is second to none. I was influenced by my music teaches

who fostered my zest for my music which I heavy picked up from the classes on camps; it was like a second home to me. The teachers helped me craft and hone my abilities. My overall experience made me want to pursue this as a career and they really made me feel comfortable to do so. They geared me correctly for what was ahead and I really value my experience," he said.

Brewer would definitely recommend the program for other musicians because he truly thinks the program was very well rounded. "I studied classical, wind ensemble and jazz. I was encouraged by the gospel too. I had a lot of styles happening all around me and different personalities and varied backgrounds; that is a great thing. LMC is one of a kind in the since that they provide an extremely great education even compared to private institutions and four year colleges. LMC allows musicians to grow in a conformable environment. The teachers try to guide you as oppose to break you," said Brewer.

As much as he loves music it can be hard to juggle playing at so many different venues during the month and getting the word out, "The toughest aspect is the transition from college to the real world but really it's not about playing well but about the business you are. A lot of people don't think of using all of their avenues when it comes to the business side and the only way you get gigs if you know how to sell yourself."

His advice for other LMC artists is simple, "Take your time and enjoy the experience. Take advantage of all the workshops and classes here. It is a great resource and

once you leave a place like LMC you don't have access to the staff knowledge and practice rooms. Don't ever be in such a rush to get out there. The blue-collar music scene will always be there when you are ready for it."

Terrence Brewer is going to be featured at the LMC Spring Guitar Concert as their surprise artist. The concert will be held Monday, April 10, 7:30 pm, in the LMC Recital Hall. Tickets are \$5 and there is a \$2 parking fee.

Call 925-439-0200 for more information. He is excited to be back and see familiar faces. "I'm playing guitar and will be doing songs from the American songbook, which is standard American 40's Jazz and today's jazz. I going to try to cover some tricks, up-tempo stuff and ballads and give a well-rounded flavor to the show. I also may be doing a piece with Mike Williams," said Brewer.

Terrence's love for music and life shines though the way he lives. He is a true success story of how far hard work and passion can take your dreams.

His life seems to be a rollercoaster that has led him all around the SF Bay Area from High school and college jazz bands to hard rock bands to playing acoustic guitar in a Presptairan church every Sunday.

As Terrence said, "Good music is good music and it doesn't matter what category it falls under. From Jimi Hendrix to The Doors to Maroon 5, I love it all. I can't get enough out of music."

For more on Terrence's career and upcoming show information go to [www.terrencebrewer.com](http://www.terrencebrewer.com).