Local rock bands pack Fremont bar

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Mojo’s Bar and Lounge is known for holding concerts on Saturday nights. They offer a buffet of local music for anyone interested in a band and beer. Jan. 31 was no different, as Fremont bands Talkie and Bound by Vows, whose members include Ohlone students and alumni, both took the stage.

Using the evening as a chance to celebrate the release of its short album, Talkie headlined the night as Bound by Vows opened up the evening.

Bound by Vows’ full album “Brightness and Contrast” was made public on iTunes and Spotify late last year, and the band was giving copies of that record away Saturday night.

“It was my first show and I was very excited to play,” Ohlone student and Bound by Vows bassist Alex Morgan said. “It went great. A lot of friends and family came out to see us.”

From the first raging riff to the final drumbeat, Bound by Vows brought the rock all night long. Never-ending drums mixed perfectly with some rather complicated bass-lines and kept the energy high.

“I loved playing the song ‘Destiny’ because of the little bass riff in the middle of the song,” Alex said, “and ‘Why’ is fun too. I think we nailed most of the harmonies for that song.”

Alex said Bound by Vows ended with some newer tracks. “We also played two songs at the show that aren’t on the album: ‘What you Want to Hear’ and ‘Paralyzed,’” he said.

As patrons continued to meander in, it wasn’t long before Mojo’s was standing room only. When Talkie took the stage, the audience was electrified with anticipation.

Starting off in four-part harmony, Talkie dipped and weaved through several strains of rock and roll. It was clear to those listening that this was a tight-knit band whose members knew what they were doing.

Their first musical set managed to work in the songs from the new short album. “Lavos” and “Bugs” offered an edgy beginning, showing off some heavy vocals and undeniably catchy riffs. “Church” carried us through with one of the catchiest anthems I’ve heard in a bar in a long time.

Opening their second set with The Beatles classic “Drive my Car” set the tone for what was going to be pure rock and roll, but with a tender side. Songs like “Dark” and “Pretty” offered glimpses at honest heartbreak that few bands allow us these days.

There was a spattering of unreleased songs, as well as an older jam called “Maggie” that has a demo on SoundCloud.

The bands jammed late into the night, wrapping up shortly before last call. Bound by Vows retired to practice some more for upcoming albums and shows.

Talkie is now preparing for their show at the Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco at 8:30 p.m. March 18. Talkie will headline the night, with Sea/Son and The Insufferables opening.

Ohlone students take stage for show, short-album release

MITCHELL WALTHER / MONITOR

Top: Ohlone student Alex Morgan croons out harmonies during ‘Bound by Vows’ opening music set. Middle: Jonny Knockout Gomez explains the meaning behind a new ‘Bound by Vows’ song before opening with a guitar riff. Above: Brothers Matt (left) and Brad Hagmann belt out some classic tunes as ‘Talkie’ takes the stage.