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Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread  
Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 20:37:59 GMT  
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For me the \_whole problem\_ is shows geared toward an \_older crowd\_. I don't think I'm in the older crowd category nor do I have any interest (I've found) with most acts that blow through the local performing arts centers and refurbished opera houses. Missing link might have been the wrong phrase for ska. There's a local ska festival in the spring at the swanky small college here, lovingly called "the Harvard of the Midwest". So there has been some exposure to the music. I think it is \_the\_ club music, but it never caught on with the club scene. I think I know the reason too and it's one of those things that is speculation but based on knockings and things I've heard about the tavern business. Bars and clubs want to sell as much booze as they can. Certain types of music are distractions from that activity if the music (swing and ska in particular) encourages a lot of dancing and less alcohol consumption. This argument went around during the swing movement and I'm pretty sure it applies to the ska movement and scene as well. Music that is overly \_slow\_ and \_loud\_ (country, some techno, the average white vocalist like Madonna or Mariah Carey and bar bands of all stripes) is manufactured toward the end of getting as much alc into people as possible. The reason given for not booking bands that have a lot of audience attention is just this: the saloonkeepers have rejected them for reasons of profit. Hearing those over-emotionalized, whining, fake attempts at gospel sound with that high pitched squeal you think will never end is bad enough in the supermarket. In the club, the same stuff is used as that which an antidote or pain killer is needed. That's what the bar tender is there for. In the larger and more diverse markets I suppose these musics can find a venue. But there is a definite lock down of the types of acts booked or music styles given in all those clubs now owned by Clear Channel and other cretins. It is a manipulation of the patrons in these places that is so offensive to me but not really recognized by the average club-goer. Maybe missing in action is a better way to describe the lack of variety such as ska in the club scene. There was or should have been an entry point for ska from the days of the Specials, Selecter, Madness and the ska variations that have come up since.

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