

We caught Chicago-based , jazz guitarist Bobby Broom at [Middle-C Jazz](#) club in Charlotte last weekend, the first of four shows.



Owner Larry Farber introduced local jazz pianist David Pankey who described the lineage of the legendary Ramsey Lewis with the Charlotte jazz scene. Ramsey (via a [pre-recorded message](#)) introduced Bobby with a healthy endorsement! This was the first live streaming for Middle C Jazz and after a couple of minor hick-ups, they got it synchronized, a great option for those who are not able to attend by capacity limitation or pandemic choice. The streaming charge was a reasonable \$10.



Kobie Watkins played drums with bassist Dennis Carroll rounding out The Bobby Broom Trio. Dennis was an original member when the group formed in 1991 and Kobie joined at 25 years old in 2000. Their experience as a unit was evident as they gelled quickly.

They opened with “I Can See Clearly Now” followed by “You and The Night and The Music”. Next up one from the musical Oklahoma, “The Surrey With The Fringe in Top”. Bobby stood up as he worked himself into a groove by the third track.



Dennis broke out the bow on “I’d Rather Be A Hammer Than A Nail” adding a bit more texture to his bass. He’d return to the bow several times during the session. They also played "Evidence" from the Plays Monk CD and we were stoked for set two. I don't know what they ate or drank during the intermission but they took it up a notch for the second set as the house was at full capacity!



COVID-prep was in full effect: The elevators from the parking lot were "max capacity 2" with social distancing marked. Upon entry to the club, patrons were given a temperature check, UV-wanned and provided required hand sanitizer. Masks were required to be worn until we reached our seats (escorted). The seating (inside and out) was at least 7’ apart. The smaller crowd did not have an adverse impact on the sound. Food and beverage service was available and the wait staff was masked, efficient and accommodating.



Live music is back, streaming and safely, in-person!

O