



MIDWEST MUSIC  
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MUSIC HAPPENS HERE

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## Present Magazine

Apocalypse Meow shows benefit musician with breast cancer

By Sarah Benson

Abigail Henderson blogs in breathtaking, candid prose. On vibrant fall foliage. On kittens. On the “c” word.

Cancer, that is. A disease she vows to kick in “the motherscratching teeth.”

Henderson, the 31-year-old potent frontwoman of Kansas City rock band The Gaslights, was recently diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer, an advanced and accelerated form of the disease that usually goes undetected by mammograms or ultrasounds.

You don’t have to know what Herceptin is to get entranced by her blog, [hopeismymiddlename.blogspot.com](http://hopeismymiddlename.blogspot.com). This honest and beautifully written account tells of cancer treatments, true, but it’s also about the big and little things that happen in between.

Henderson’s dedicated following of readers, friends, artists and musicians have banded together to organize a weekendlong benefit that will help Henderson pay mounting medical bills. The benefit, “[Apocalypse Meow](#),” has an appropriate logo: a helmeted pink kitten armed and ready with two AK-47s.

Musicians, Henderson blogs, “are a benefit-having people. I have always believed musicians as important as HVAC folk or programmers or schoolteachers. I believed that before I got cancer. I believed that before I ever got on a stage or strung a guitar. Songs make up memory. What played at yr wedding? What played at yr first kiss? What played when you lost yr first love? Songs did.”

Henderson says she decided to write a blog because “I wanted my friends to know I was OK.”

“The response has been really cool,” she says. “Cancer needs to be talked about, especially cancer in young people. Most of the women I know had no idea what inflammatory breast cancer was.”

Plus, she adds, “I’ve never been one to do anything quietly.”

If you’d like to donate but can’t attend [Apocalypse Meow](#), go to [apocalypsemeow.net](http://apocalypsemeow.net), where you can click and donate online. The site has raised more than \$1,600 so far.

Oh, and by the way, Hope really is Henderson’s middle name.

Apocalypse Meow

**What:** Benefit for Abigail Henderson of The Gaslights.

Friday

**Where:** Midwestern Musical Co., 1830 Locust St. \$10 suggested donation.

**7 p.m.** The kickoff to the weekend's events is an amalgam of music and art. The Midtown Quartet, a jazz band, performs, along with local acts to be announced. Works from artists Bob Masse, Wes Freed, Mac McSpadden, Miguel Rivera, Sarah Brecko, Peggy White, Megan Channel, Neal Hamilton and others will be on display.

Saturday

**Where:** Davey's Uptown Rambler's Club, 3402 Main St. \$10 suggested donation. Those under 21 are allowed in as long as they're accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**The tentative schedule:**

**5 p.m.** Expassionates

**5:45 p.m.** Gary Cloud

**6:45 p.m.** Mishai Etter

**7:30 p.m.** The Dark Circles

**8:30 p.m.** Kasey Rausch

**9:30 p.m.** Sandoval

**10:30 p.m.** Howard Iceberg and Chad Rex

**11:15 p.m.** Parlay, Ernie Locke

**12:15 a.m.** Amy Farrand

**1 a.m.** Bacon Shoe

Sunday

**Where:** Record Bar, 1020 Westport Road. \$10 suggested donation. The show is all ages before 9 p.m., 21 and older afterward.

**3:30 p.m.** Slimm Spins

**4 p.m.** Kristie Stremel

**5 p.m.** Lights & Siren

**6 p.m.** The Sixteens

**7:15 p.m.** Pendergast

**8:20 p.m.** The Pedaljets

**9:30 p.m.** The Klangs

**10:30 p.m.** Sister Mary Rotten Crotch