

Dear Louisa,

In the mid-1980s, when beloved KEXP alumnus Mark Arm was a DJ at KCMU, the Mudhoney singer accidentally locked himself out of the booth during his show one night. Luckily, there were no such mishaps when Mudhoney rocked atop the Space Needle on July 11, 2013. When you're playing outside, 600 feet above the ground, representing your entire city as the eyes and ears of the world are following along in real time, you hope things go smoothly!

That performance was the climax to KEXP's day-long celebration of Sub Pop's Silver Jubilee. Working in partnership with two other Emerald City institutions—Sub Pop and the Space Needle—we placed an iconic band on the crown of the city for the first time ever. We literally upheld Seattle music for the world to see.

This unprecedented program—which also included sets by Sera Cahoone and Grant Olsen (of Gold Leaves), and a live broadcast featuring interviews with Seattle music luminaries like photographer Charles Peterson, Sub Pop co-founder Bruce Pavitt, and Soundgarden guitarist Kim Thayil—is a perfect example of what KEXP does daily. Iconic artists including Nirvana and Death Cab for Cutie connected with their earliest audiences through KCMU and KEXP. Showcasing local talent is an essential part of our mission. It stokes civic pride and creativity at home, and also encourages music lovers in other cities to champion their own regional scenes—which in turn generates more great art, which benefits music lovers everywhere.



Mudhoney atop the Space Needle (photo: Morgen Schuler)

From the glory days of the Jackson Street jazz clubs and the garage rock boom of the '60s, to the grunge era and the continued ascent of Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Seattle's musical character has always reflected its diverse populace. The shipping and aerospace industries, the Yukon Gold Rush, and the tech boom have attracted generations of talent and innovation to our city. As a result, Seattle's music scene is one of the most eclectic there is in the world today.

Tune in to *Audioasis*, the region's longest-running local music show, on Saturday nights, and you'll hear the current musical renaissance Seattle is undergoing alongside highlights from its storied past. Celebrating a wide spectrum of our artists—the conscious hip-hop of THEESatisfaction and Shabazz Palaces, electronic producers including Luisine and ODESZA, and critically-acclaimed jazz players like Bill Frisell—throughout the day, every day on KEXP sends a powerful message: you don't have to conform to succeed.

Investing back in our hometown as KEXP continues to evolve yields results at local, national, and international levels. In the past year, we expanded our Community Partnership Initiative and launched the *Little Big Show* concert series (in partnership with Starbucks and Seattle Theater Group), both of which raise awareness and funds for other Seattle nonprofits. And, fewer than two years from today, KEXP's new home at Seattle Center will put "music that matters" at the heart of the city's arts and culture corridor, right alongside Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and SIFF Film Center, and serve as a hub for music lovers and artists from everywhere. New education programs will connect visiting musicians with Seattle residents and visitors. An artists' lounge with showers and laundry facilities for touring bands will mean musicians on the road are refreshed when they perform in town.

Most importantly, expanded facilities and better tools in our new Seattle Center home will allow KEXP to share more great music with the entire world. You'll be hearing a lot more about the new home in the coming months. Not only will the space be accessible to the public, but we'll offer more and better podcasts, videos, in-studios, specialty shows, and innovations we haven't even dreamed of yet. Because no matter where you are geographically, there's no reason music lovers should ever feel shut out of KEXP ... even if you forget your keys.

How does championing local music boost civic pride and bolster community? I'd love to hear your thoughts on this topic. Feel free to email me at tom@kexp.org. And, as always, thank you for powering KEXP.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long tail on the 'm'.