

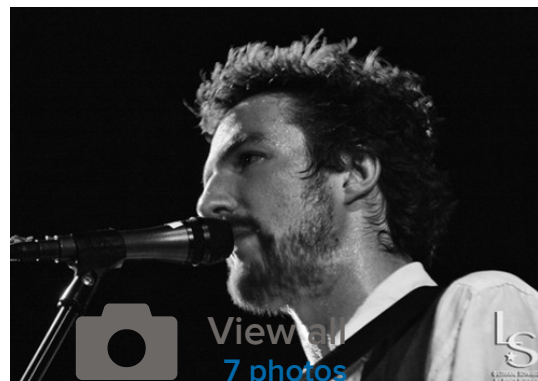
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Concert review: Frank Turner kicks off tour in Danbury

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If last night was any indication of what lies ahead for punk/folk rock musician [Frank Turner's](#) current North American tour, then the British singer has a lot to look forward to as he makes his way across the U.S. and Canada this fall. Jump-starting the 6-week trek at Danbury's [Heirloom Arts Theatre](#) last night, Turner played to a room full of enthusiasts who sang along to every word as he belted out songs old and new, backed by his touring band [The Sleeping Souls](#). Though Turner, who hails from Winchester, England, is fairly new to many Americans and is still in the process of making his way into stateside iPod playlists, it was clear from show attendance that plenty of Northwestern Connecticut music lovers have already gotten in on the ground floor.



Frank Turner at the Heirloom Arts Theatre in Danbury, CT

Lorraine Schwartz



*Lorraine Schwartz*

The setlist was mostly comprised of tunes off his latest CD "[England Keep My Bones](#)" which, judging from the response last night, has proved to be a hit with his supporters. But the biggest singalongs of the night came when Turner played his classic live standards like "Reasons Not To Be An Idiot", "The Ballad Of Me and My Friends" and "The Road." Even concert goers who may have begun the show as a quiet spectator found themselves shouting along to "Photosynthesis." In fact, Turner even got the Heirloom's bartender to join in on singing the song's memorable line "I won't sit down, and I won't shut up. And most of all I will not grow up!"

The most recent New York area appearances this past Spring (my review of his Knitting Factory show [here](#)) were just the man and his guitar. Stripped down to the bare minimum, Turner's music and his personality are enough to fill a room and keep audiences riveted. But with drums, additional guitar, bass and keyboard behind him, the songs obviously have a different kind of impact. Though powerful when played acoustic, songs like "I Still Believe", "Try This At Home" and "I Am Disappeared" shift into fifth gear and become total rockers, causing crowd and band members to headbang and dance up a storm. Turner's solo show is known for stellar acoustic covers (including a beautiful [rendition](#) of ABBA's "Dancing Queen"), but with a full band in tow, he was able to play an amazing [cover](#) of Queen's classic rock ballad "Somebody To Love."

Turner, along with openers [Into It. Over It.](#) and [Andrew Jackson Jihad](#) will be playing Bowery Ballroom tonight, returning to the venue on November 3rd. But unfortunately for any of you latecomers, both shows are already sold out. However, if you find yourself in the mood for a mini road trip, Turner will be playing Middle East in Cambridge, MA on

November 2nd and Philadelphia's Theater of Living Arts on November 4th. For more information on [Frank Turner](#) including tour dates and lyrics to his songs, check out his official [site](#).

Stay tuned for my one-on-one interview with Frank Turner, to be posted soon. Follow me on [Twitter](#) for updates!

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- [Frank Turner at the legendary Horseshoe Tavern](#)



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