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Concert Review: The Revival Tour at Bowery Ballroom

[The Revival Tour](#) is exhausting for everyone involved, but in a wonderful way. For three hours, fans and musicians come together for a night of hooping and hollering, feet stomping, hand clapping and loud singalongs, creating an evening of memories that last for years to come. So how do you top that experience? You do it all again.

Lorraine Schwartz

Friday night the band of merrymakers known as The Revival Tour hit New York City's [Bowery Ballroom](#) for a double header. The show, featuring headliners [Chuck Ragan](#), [Tommy Gabel](#), [Dan Andriano](#) and [Cory Branan](#) with backup musicians Joe Ginsberg and Jon Gaunt, was originally scheduled for one performance. But since tickets sold out so quickly, a second late show was added. This means that fans who stayed for both (there were quite a few who did) spent what amounts to half a day inside the Lower East Side venue, with the first show beginning at 7:30pm and the second ending at about 3am. If that doesn't show dedication to having a good time, I don't know what does.

The fans who stayed for both sets obviously recognized how special the occasion was to be able to see two shows in a row. The lineup for the Revival Tour not only differs year to year, but also night to night, and on Friday's case back-to-back performances. Each show provides moments you'll likely never see again. For example, the Philadelphia show saw New Jersey's Brian Fallon, Philly's own [Dave Hause](#), and Virginia's Tim Barry (my review [here](#)) while the Bowery Ballroom shows featured Hause, [Kayleigh Goldsworthy](#) and [Jenny Owen Youngs](#) (two women who are stunning in both talent and looks). Tommy Gabel's bandmate from [Against Me!](#), James Bowman, also made a surprise appearance.

Along with the addition of special guests adding variety, the performers often weave in and out of each other's sets, resulting in various combinations throughout the tour. During the late show, Chuck Ragan joined Dan Andriano for a house rocking version of Alkaline Trio's "Radio", and later joined Dave Hause to sing "Trusty Chords", a song by Ragan's band Hot Water Music. Aware of today's audiences tendencies to record such one-of-a-kind moments with their cell phones, Hause encouraged the crowd to put down their cameras and be in the moment with himself and Ragan saying, "Let's just have a sing!"

Both shows had great audience response, but it was the later show that was the rowdiest, most likely due to pre-gaming at nearby bars until the 11pm door time. An over-enthusiastic Gabel fan jumped up onstage while the entire lineup performed one of their final numbers, returning to the crowd floor only after a roadie, sound

man and venue security physically forced him offstage. But other than that oddly creepy moment, the audience was pretty respectful of each other's space, getting physical only to hug each other and sing along.

The camaraderie was not only found in the crowd, but on stage as well. During the group singalongs everyone was smiling away, often throwing arms around each other to sing into the mic together. Dave Hause, probably the best on the bill at getting the crowd going, even jumped into the crowd with his tambourine to experience the show as a fan during the late show finale of "Will The Circle Be Unbroken", a song Johnny Cash would often play when he performed with his family.

Watching all this, it's hard not to realize that this isn't the type of show you see too much these days. There are no special effects, pyro or backup dancers. It's just people who love music playing as stripped-down as it gets to people looking for something real and down to Earth to connect to. As Tim Barry sang at the Philadelphia Revival show, "Music should sound like escape, not rent." The Revival Tour's music definitely sounds like escape.

For photos from the show, click [here](#).

The Revival Tour is currently trekking across the Great Lakes region. From there, the tour will be making its way to the West coast, finishing up in San Francisco. To buy tickets, visit the tour's [official site](#). You can follow the tour on Twitter at [@TheRevivalTour](#) and me at [@ConcertExaminer](#).