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Nerds Rule: Whimsical Wizard Rock Takes Over Library For a Night

Self-described nerds, geeks, and dorks gathered for a Wizard Rock concert.

By [Deborah Bostock-Kelley](#) | [Email the author](#) | 9:51am

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Mike Lombardo poses with fans Alana Fishkin and Meghan Kelley. Credit: [Deborah Bostock-Kelley](#)

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Imagine a small auditorium filled with nearly a hundred teenagers and a stage. On stage, a young man with a guitar grabbed a microphone and screamed, "I'm okay with being a nerd!"

Instead of sneers, whispers and dirty looks, the entire room erupted into screams and thunderous applause; he burst into song about characters from the mega-series [Harry Potter](#), and the audience danced and happily sang along.

The last installment in the Harry Potter saga, [The Deathly Hallows Part 2](#) was released last week.

On Monday, fans from Westchase, Citrus Park and as far away as Kansas ventured to [John F. Germany library](#) in downtown Tampa for a free concert with their favorite [Wizard Rock \(Wrock\) bands](#), a genre of music based on the Harry Potter series.

The bands also performed "nerd music" that honored all things nerd – especially gaming, Star Wars, Dr. Who and Lost, among others.

[The Remus Lupins](#) and [Ministry of Magic](#) joined DFTBA (Don't Forget to Be Awesome) recording artists, [Mike Lombardo](#), [ALL CAPS](#) and [Skyway Flyer](#) to play original music, sell CDs and t-shirts, sign autographs, hang out and take photos with the loyal fans who subscribed to their YouTube

channels, followed their tweets on Twitter, and read their [Stumblr blog](#) or posts on Facebook.

This marks the fourth year for the event.

"This type of concert doesn't require huge security guards. These are good kids," said Lorie Tonti, Coordinator of Youth Services for the library. "The bands made first contact four years ago to do a summer library tour. We've booked them every year since."

The reason why was easy to hear.

"I'm a big fan of The Remus Lupins and Ministry of Magic," said Sydney Santiago, a 21 year old Westchase resident. "I follow all of them on YouTube. I love them all to death. They are all really cool bands."

Simply put, the bands were good and the young men fronting them good-looking, talented, funny and interactive with their adoring audience.

The uniform was mainly tees, jeans, and flip-flops. Several dressed in Gryffindor colors of gold and red, sported the Slytherin crest, drew Sharpie darkmark tattoos on their arms or wore rainbow scarves, mismatched striped and dotted colorful socks, and one even held a wizard wand.

Yet all in this group were well-behaved, welcoming and accepting of everyone self-proclaimed as "nerds, dorks and geeks."

"My favorite band is Ministry of Magic," said Alana Fishkin a senior in high school from Citrus Park. "This is a fun way to meet other people with similar interests, not just the music, but other nerdy stuff."

Singer Mike Lombardo said his favorite part of performing was meeting the fans after a show.

"It's so much better than just seeing comments of fans on YouTube," he said. "Here, we are in a roomful of friends."

Though the decade of growing up with Harry, Hermione, and Ron ended with the release of the last movie, through Mike and the other Wizard Rock bands, the series will live on.

Check out Wizard Rock on the following Youtube links:

Jason Munday: <http://www.youtube.com/user/jasonmundaymusic>

Luke Conard: <http://www.youtube.com/lukeconard>

Alex Carpenter: <http://www.youtube.com/AlexanderCarpenter>

Mike Lombardo: <http://www.youtube.com/mikelombardomusic>

Hayley Hoover: <http://www.youtube.com/hayleyghoover>

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Speaking of Harry Potter, what did you think of the latest movie? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

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