

CLONES OF THE QUEEN

Clones of the Queen, abbreviated 'COTQ' or just 'Clones', is a **three-piece synth-pop band based in Honolulu, Hawai'i**. The band started jamming together in the summer of 2009 in an old bank vault above a coffee shop, and now write, practice, and record in the Crow's Nest, a room on the fourth floor of the old Blaisdell Hotel in downtown Honolulu. With **Ara Laylo on lead vocals, Paul Bajcar on guitar, and Matthew McVickar on drums and electronics**, the trio delivers songs that are at once ambient and spirited, combining strong vocals, stormy percussion, and heavily-effected guitar lines and synth loops. Clones of the Queen derive their band name from the ant species *Mycocepurus smithii*, in which every individual is a genetic duplicate of the queen.

The unsigned band has self-released three EPs: **Moonlight** in September 2013, **Braided** in July 2012, and their **fan-funded debut EP Gate** in December 2010. **All of their music is free to download from their website.**

Clones of the Queen was honored with **opening for The Cure at Blaisdell Arena** in July 2013. Lead singer of The Cure Robert Smith himself choose Clones to open the show, and they played to the acclaim of fans new and old and got **great reviews**.

They have been **featured on the popular music blog yvynyl**. The trio has been the main support for many visiting bands, opening for **The Cure** (yes, really!), **Toro Y Moi, of Montreal, Menomena, Diplo, Little Dragon, and Warpaint**, for whom they opened at Aloha Tower on the opening night of Hallowbaloo 2011, Honolulu's yearly Halloween music and street festival.

They have played every one of downtown Honolulu's nighttime hotspots, Waikiki's Hard Rock Cafe, and the **Honolulu Academy of Arts** and the **Contemporary Museum of Honolulu** multiple times for special events.

The band has had dozens of write-ups in local newspapers (both the Star Advertiser and the Honolulu Weekly), and was named as the **Best Band in Honolulu by the Boston Phoenix for their yearly Best New Bands in America feature in 2011**.

CONTACT

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LINKS

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