

Umphreak's Anonymous "Year in Review 2017" Survey Results Report

Introduction

With a new album and a packed tour schedule, Umphrey's has commenced what is sure to be a banner year for the band. As such, we thought it would be important to assess the community's impression of 2017. One hundred and sixteen Umphreaks took time out of their day to log into their Google accounts and participate in our survey. None of the questions were required, meaning that the number of respondents varies from question to question, but most answered them all. While there were no new tracks debuted or newly planned massive events staged, the previous year encompassed many facemelting concerts comprised of Hall of Fame worthy jams that were sure to delight the any Umphrey's enthusiast. 2017 certainly contained its fair share of unexpected affairs, including the Joshua Redman tour in January sans Jake, who was out of commission with the flu, and a three set show make-up show at Northernly Island in Chicago after an epic rainout. Overall, fans had an extremely positive view of the previous three hundred and sixty five and appear to be looking towards this year with excited anticipation, awaiting whatever idiosyncratic adventure will unfold.

The MVP for 2017 is...Brendan Bayliss.

With over 25% of the total vote, Brendan Bayliss just barely edges out the competition to claim the fan MVP title for 2017. Bayliss is making his second appearance in the MVP slot. Everyone on the team put up a competitive showing this year, with Brendan pulling away from the rest of the group during the final few days of voting. Bayliss is a masterful frontman, juggling his guitar prowess with passionate, energetic vocals almost effortlessly. Nothing can eclipse Brendan's cryptic lyrics, which stand alone as some of the most thoughtful in Jambandia.



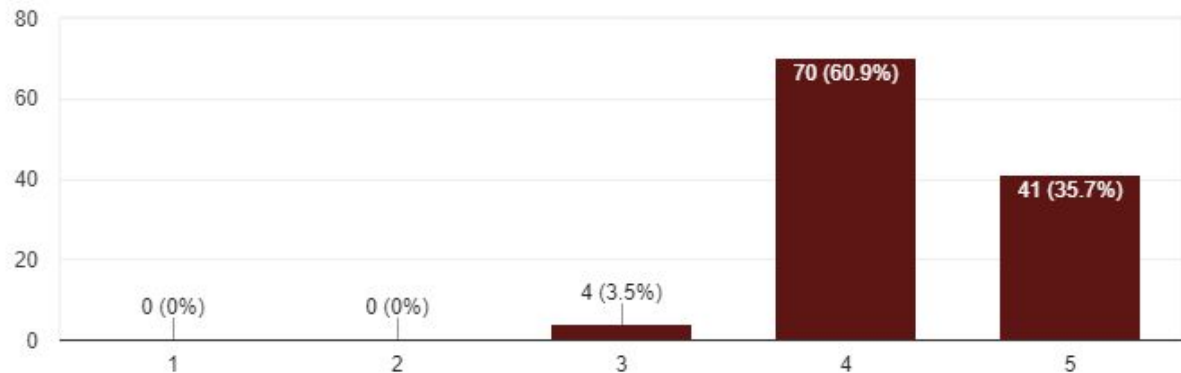
What Rating Would You Give to 2017 Shows in General?

Umphreys largely approve of the direction that Umphreys has been taking live over the past year, rating 2017 a four out on a scale of one to five. Notice the complete lack of low rating votes, impressive for a band who is known to have vocal detractors amongst its fanbase. At

worst, four people of one hundred and fifteen thought 2017 was an average year.

What Rating Would You Give to 2017 Shows in General?

115 responses



The Best Show of 2017 Was...07.23.2017 CEFCU Stage at the Landing, Peoria, Illinois

17 votes (15.3%)

The night after a disappointingly rained-out show at Northernly Island in Chicago, the band and the fans were equally salivating for a rager. The minstrels put together a setlist is full of heavy hitters and near rarities from across the band's vast song catalog. Highlights include a wonderful *Push the Pig* punctuated by a smooth-dancey groove, one of the best *Onward & Upwards* of all time, and an extremely delicious *All Things Ninja* which kicks off the nonstop jam heavy second set. Everything, from song selection to improv energy, is in this show and it is no surprise that it hold the title of "Fan Favorite" for 2017.

Set 1: Eat, Push the Pig[1] > *Cut Off, Onward & Upward* > *The Pequod* > *Conduit*

Set 2: All Things Ninja, Attachments, 2x2, Utopian Fir > *Escape*[2] > *Utopian Fir* > *Kula* > *Wappy Sprayberry* > *Cochise*[3]

Encore: End of the Road > *Out Of Order*

[1] with *Game of Thrones Main Title (Ramin Djawadi)* teases

[2] debut, *Rupert Holmes*; incomplete

[3] debut, *Audioslave*

Runners Up:

#2 12 votes (10.8%) 7.01.2017 Red Rocks Amphitheater, Morrison, Colorado

#3 10 votes (9%) 3.04.2017 Wilma Theater, Missoula, Montana

#4 6 votes (5.4%) 12.31.2017 Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Colorado

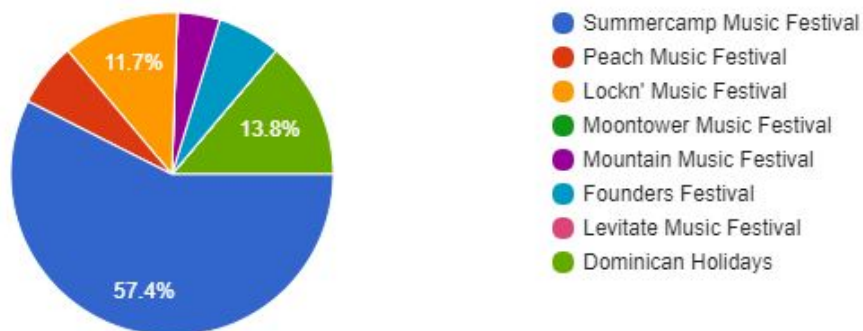
#5 5 votes (4.5%) (tie) 8.20.2017 Tennessee Theater, Knoxville, Tennessee and 7.02.2017 Red Rocks Amphitheater, Morrison, Colorado

The Best Festival Umphrey's Played in 2017 was...Summercamp Music Festival, Three Sisters Park, Chillicothe, IL.

Maybe it's the absolutely fantastic lineup that Jay Goldberg cobbled together last year, maybe it's the everpresent Chicago-factor, but it's most likely the three days of Umphrey's McGee that powers the hype surrounding **Summercamp**. Regardless of reason, the Chillicothe festival has once again claimed the title of "Best Festival Umphrey's Played" in the calendar year. With almost 60% of the total vote, the longest running large Jamband festival in the midwest will likely remain the champion of this category for years to come. Runners up in this category contain other multi-day Umphrey's jubilees, including **Dominican Holiday** and **Lockn Music Festival**. No matter where Umphreys go, they will never be satisfied with a single set from their favorite band.

The Best Festival Umphrey's Played in 2017 Was...

94 responses



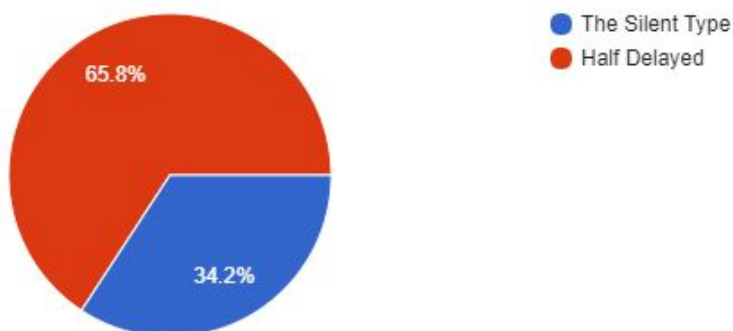
Your Favorite of the Two New *its not us* Songs Already Released Was....Half Delayed

Probably the most irrelevant question on our survey - "*Half Delayed*" and "*The Silent Type*" go head-to-head as the first two singles released from *its not us*. When we asked this question, they were the only two tunes available, and we did not have the foresight to consider that the full disc would be released over the time period that this survey was run. Regardless, there was an absolute

upset as "Half Delayed" routed "The Silent Type" accruing 65% of the total vote. Fans were not as impressed with the retooled "Cigarette Cables" as they were with the brand new, shoe-gazey "Half Delayed" which has received positive impressions for both studio and live iterations. Consider this a preview - next survey we will ask which is your favorite *its not us* tune on the disc.

Your Favorite of the Two New "its not us" Songs Already Released...

111 responses

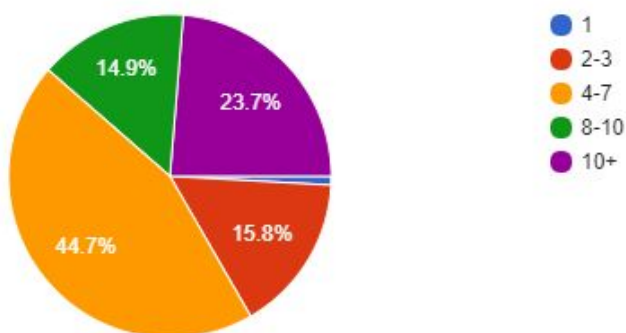


How Many Umphrey's Shows Did You See in 2017?

Umphreaks are ADDICTED. Nearly 45% of 114 responses saw between four to seven shows in 2017! That's insane! Almost 25% of respondents saw 10+ shows in the year! An overwhelming majority of the Umphrey's fan base is dedicated enough to travel to see their favorite band...unless you live in Colorado or Chicago, but that's cheating.

How Many Umphrey's Shows Did You See in 2017?

114 responses



The Best New Cover of 2017 Was...Red Barchetta (Rush)

18 Votes (16.2%)

It's hard not to get hyper immediately when you hear the harmonic hops at the beginning of this track. The song, from Rush's 1981 release ***Moving Pictures***, was played during the second set of the final night at Red Rocks. Fairly true to the original, the featured guest Jennifer Hartswick provided jaw-dropping vocals which gave the cover the lift over any other played in 2017.

Runners Up:

#2 16 votes (14.4%) *Running Down a Dream (Tom Petty)*

#3 15 votes (13.5%) *Canary in a Coal Mine (The Police)*

The Best Support Act of 2017 Was...Spafford

28 Votes (24.3%)



A natural cousin to Umphrey's with their complex songcrafting, guitar shredding improvisation and genre bending, Spafford has claimed the title of "Best Supporting Act" in 2017. These Arizona Adventurers have been working hard for the past nine years to emerge as an up-and-coming jam staple, and Umphreks have wholeheartedly embraced them. The band has taken many routes pioneered by Umphrey's, including frequent couch-tours, providing SBDs to Archive.org and linking up with Nugs.net. Nationwide support from digital music magazine Live for Live Music also helped to boost the band's exposure, and now Spafford finds themselves headlining cross-country. Close competition came in the form of Aqueous, a Buffalo, New York

troop whose intricate extended jams and thoughtful lyricism has provided Umphrecks another avenue for shreddy, thoughtful extemporization.

The Best Supporting Act of 2017 Was...	Top results ▼
Spafford	28
Aqueous	25
Snarky Puppy	15
Greensky Bluegrass	14
Pigeons Playing Ping Pong	8
The Marcus King Band	6
Eminence Ensemble	5
Moon Taxi	3
SunSquabi	2
Montu	2
Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers	2
Sinkane	1
Earphorik	1
Bokanté	1

The Best Umphrey's New Years Eve Run So Far Is...The 2017 Fillmore, Denver, Colorado Run

25 votes (23.8%)

Umphrecks were absolutely enamored with the most recent New Years Eve run, choosing Denver 2017 as the titlist for best NYE so far. Despite the insane cold, fans packed the old Colfax barn for a triple pack of mindblowing shows. Denver New Years have been a fan favorite since their first iteration in 2013, but the most recent one takes the cake as the Best New Years to date. it's hard to find a New Years that Umphrecks dislike. While 2016-2017 Aragon run has received some slack for the venue's plodding pace at getting attendees through the door, the experience still made its way into the top three. The St. Louis Pageant run was the only outside-of-Illinois NYE that did not place in top tiers, likely due to the limited exposure this run was able to garner.

The Best New Years Has Been...?	Top results ▼
2017 Fillmore Denver, CO	25
2014 Tabernacle Atlanta, GA	16
2016 Aragon Chicago, IL	12
2012 Tabernacle Atlanta, GA	11
2013 Fillmore Denver, CO	9
2015 Fillmore Denver, CO	8
2004 Riviera Chicago, IL	4
2003 Vic Theater Chicago, IL	3
2006 Aragon Chicago, IL	3
2008 Auditorium Chicago, IL	3
2009 Aragon Chicago, IL	3
2011 Pageant St Louis, MO	3
2007 Aragon Chicago, IL	2
2000 Cubby Bear Chicago, IL	1

In 2018 Umphreaks...

The below section of the survey allowed Umphreaks to choose between many predetermined options, asking them what they would like to see more or less of in 2018. Some of the results inconclusive. For example, 17 participants (15%) voted for "More Festivals in 2018" while 17 others wanted "Less Festivals in 2018". The same number of people want "More Private VIP Shows in 2018" and "More Covers in 2018", but 15% is a fairly low proportion from which to make a statement. Below, we have highlighted the opinions which obtained over 25% if of the vote which allows for us to make a definitive remarks on the prevailing sentiment among Umphreaks.

Would Like to See More Tour Dates, Especially More Two and Three Day Show Runs

One nighters are a blitz where you attempt to cram all the enjoyment you can into twenty four hours of manic music and local flavor. Two nights is fine and 46% of Umphrey's audience wants to see more two night shows, but they overwhelmingly feel that three night runs are the best. You really feel like you get to know a venue and a city over a three night timespan. You can solidify a new friendship, revisit your favorite new restaurant or finally make it to that one spot you've been dying to hit up all run. The band has worked out any venue-specific kinks and shaken off any rustiness, you've been able to sleep off the hangover from night one to come back for night three. Whatever the case, three night runs are positively the best, and 67 out of 113 responses (59.3%) want to see more three day runs in 2018.

Would Like More "Special Events"

Umphrey's has always excelled in the "Special Events" department. At each unique event, the band goes above and beyond to ensure distinctive experiences beyond any two set show. S2s,

Real to Reel, UMBowl, Making Lemonade, Bill GrahUMs - each one unique in their own right. 30% of respondents who stated that they would love to see more of it, and there may be some signs of this happening more frequently already in 2018. Over the twentieth anniversary run in New York City, the band hosted a "Behind the Music" type show at the Cutting Room pre-Beacon. Hopefully we'll see some more like it throughout the year.

Would Like More UM Member After Shows

Aftershows that star members of the band are always a treat. Recently, fans have gotten a small taste with appearances from supergroup Tauking McGee (Joel Cummins, Ryan Stasik, Matt Jalbert, Isaac Teel) and would love to see something more! Sometimes it's hard to rage the house party three nights in a row and while any after show can be as fun one, 30% voted in favor of more Umphrey's Member official aftershows. Now if we can talk the exhausted band members into going along with this idea.

Would Like More Umphrey's Side Projects, Especially 30db

Brendan Bayliss and Jeff Austin's 30db has recently risen from the ashes with two well loved shows at Martyrs in December and Umphreks are ready for more. Probably the most well known and mainstream of Umphrey's side projects, the duo's "One Man Show", released nearly eight years ago, is a classic within the scene and songs like Susanna have found their way into Umphrey's rotation. While Jeff is busy breaking ground with his "Jeff Austin Band", and Bayliss has been busy crafting new Umphrey's songs for us to love, it would be a dream come true for these two masterful songwriters to collaborate on some new tunes and release another disc. Above all other side projects, like the venerated Ali Baba's Tahini or OHMphreys, Umphreks would like to see more of the two crooners reunite for more stagetime in 2018.

Would Like More Outdoor Shows

There's something about the combination of the open sky and live music that is euphoric. Sometimes it's the backdrop of majestic city lights against a purple sky, sometimes it's scintillating starlight in the black night of a festival forest. In the late Spring and early Summer months, Umphrey's seems to try everything possible to keep their shows outdoors. 35 of those participating in our survey (around 31%) would like to see even more outdoor shows, if possible. We're not certain how Umphrey's could accommodate this request outside of heavily stacking their winter tour dates in warmer climates, leaving traditionally blustery metropolises for spring, summer and fall months.

If Umphrey's Plays Somewhere Different for New Years Eve 2018, They Should Play... (tie) New York City, New York and Milwaukee, Wisconsin

10 Votes (9.5%)



There could be no larger contrast between the two fan-choices for next years New Years Eve - New York City and Milwaukee, both tied with 10 votes each (9.5%). Both are amazing in their own right - one a city that never sleeps, the other home to one of the most beloved venues in the country.

NYC recently hosted the 20th Anniversary Run with big results. A sell out on a Saturday night in the center of the Big Apple is no easy feat. If the boys did choose to hold a New Years run in New York, they would have their choice in numerous venues: The Beacon, The Brooklyn Bowl, The Nokia Theater, even the Capitol Theater in Port Chester. There are tons of aftershow opportunities where fans could rage throughout the night until dawn and the city speaks for itself as one of the most amazing in the world. However, there are disadvantages too: the weather in New York is unpredictable but generally frigid, and there would be tons of competition from other events in the city which may steal some of the thunder from selling out all three nights of the run.

A Milwaukee New Years run likely limits the band to only one venue, but one of the best venues in the country: The Riverside Theater in Milwaukee. Amazing sound and sight lines, a liberal reentry policy, beautiful aesthetics, cheap drinks and the proximity to many midwest main cities has made The Riverside a fan favorite for many years. It is extremely easy to waltz from one of the many surrounding hotels into the venue and then out once again for a set break session. That said, there are complications to an MKE New Years as well: Milwaukee's weather is also often deathly cold in late December and Milwaukee is not known to be a party city: the lights are out in most bars before two am and there are scant few cultural activities to indulge in during the daytime. That's okay! There is possibly no better arrangement for cross-hotel partying with your best friends, so Milwaukee anything promises to be a near three day ragerfest. Umphrey's would be the main event in the city for New Years and you can plan on any three nights of Umphrey's in Milwaukee selling out instantaneously.

Runners Up:

#2 7 Votes (6.7%) (tie) *San Francisco, California* and *Las Vegas, Nevada* and *Portland, Oregon* and *New Orleans, Louisiana*

#3 6 Votes (5.7%) *Miami, Florida*

In 2018, I Would Like Umphrey's to Play More Shows in...The Mountain West

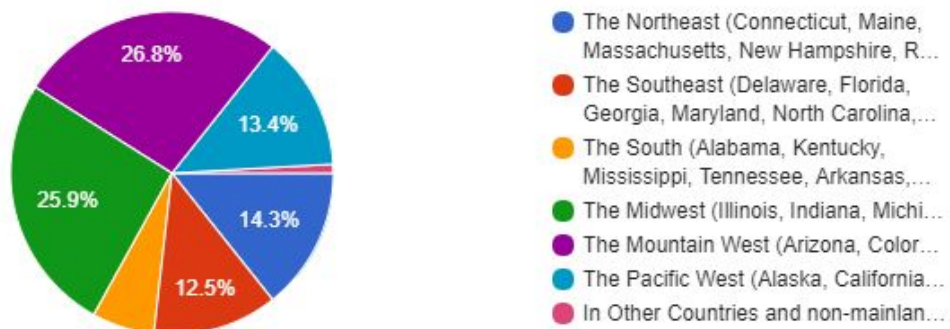
30 Votes (26.8%)

Last year, the Southeast hosted the most shows in the country by far, accumulating 22 of 91 shows (24%). The runner up was the Midwest at 20 shows and then the Mountain West with 15 shows. The Pacific West saw the least amount of Umphrey's with just four shows, all of which were in California.

Umphrey's two largest markets ride high atop the list of places Umphreys would like to see more shows in 2018, with the Mountain West just barely pulling ahead by one vote over the Midwest. Most of the other regions were bunched together grabbing around 12-15% of the vote, with those in the Northeast and Pacific coasts particularly hungry for more Umphrey's. States in the deep south garnered the least share of the vote (7 votes).

In 2018, I Would Like Umphrey's to Play More Shows in...

112 responses



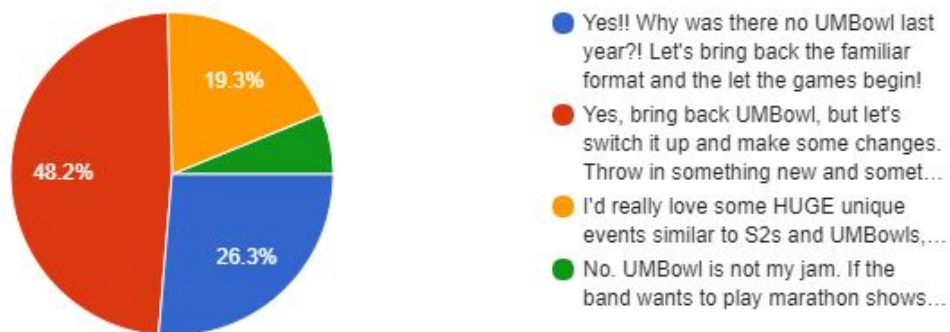
Would You Like to See UMBowl Return in 2018? Yes! Bring back UMBowl but let's switch it up and make some changes!

55 Votes (48.2%)

Where is UMBowl? It's been since 2016, with the absolutely amazing UMBowl 7, since Umphrey's has entered the musical gauntlet and brought us four quarters of musical madness. Far and away, fans would like to see UMBowl make a glorious come back with some switch ups and new ideas, a combination of what we know and love and what we aren't expecting. Almost a quarter of respondents would be happy with things the way they were, and 20% would like to see something similar but without the four quarter breakdown. Regardless, Umphreaks would love to see some sort of melodious four hour meltdown in 2018. There's still time to plan it, Umphrey's!!

Would You Like to See UMBowl Return in 2018?

114 responses



Media Sources

The photograph of Brendan Bayliss was taken by Tara Gracer of Tara Gracer Design and Photos. She frequently allows her photography to be used by Umphreak's Anonymous.

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The "2017 Year In Review" Survey Report was prepared, digitized and summarized by Joshua Colky.