

# OPEN MIC NITE

the guys usually come  
tight--- but the women can use

that nite to vent on how men did  
them wrong, how daddy was always gone  
& how their heart now belongs

to the broken template of what love  
should've been. but then again

when the jazz starts-a-playin'  
& you're feelin' what the artists are saying

does it really matter what's being  
said if the soul food being fed

can fill the appetite for strength & power?  
& even those in their deepest hour---

can share their words with your mind &  
you'll  
compare their words, to your words

to try to find a better way to free  
the emotions you want to say---

in a more creative (yet mellow) way,  
so when you embrace the mic on a future  
day,

the audience can see how you've advanced  
to the next phase of your writing skills---

for you have to prove to yourself that you'll  
stand & be respected for your literary  
expertise---

still relating to the "deep" at heart  
while letting them know that a major part of  
who you are  
who you like to be  
who they will now see as "me"  
is  
poetically  
intellectually  
theoretically incline.

**Mark Anthony Thomas**

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