

# STITCHED SOUND

Issue 19



Pierce The Veil

Julian Velard, David Lehr,

The Season Premiere,

City Lights and more!

## Rain, Rain you can stay...

I am in love with the weather right now. It's currently somewhat rainy, and just the perfect weather to be inspired by everything. Personally, I love sitting by the window on a rainy day with my camera and a notepad, just writing and writing, and snapping shots when the lightning is bright and bold. Unfortunately, the rain seems to want to run away from me, but hopefully it'll stay soon.

Personally, I am very excited for all of you to see this issue. I think we some pretty great interviews, reviews, and features for everyone out there. It really does mean so much to me, and also us as a staff when you guys read our issues and like them. And especially to our readers who have read every issue, it means more to us that you could ever imagine. Thank you so much.

Stitched Sound is an online magazine that brings you the latest news about upcoming and distinguished bands. We do this through interviews, journalism, reviews, updates, and photography. Keeping the mood light and fun is something we love to do. Whether it's through an intriguing interview, simple update, or complete issue, we strive to bring you news and updates about the fast growing music scene today.

Cynthia Lam

- |    |                     |    |                          |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 3  | Gia Go              | 16 | The Relay Company        |
| 4  | We Built Atlantis   | 17 | Justin Tyler             |
| 5  | Kieran Strange      | 18 | Pierce The Veil          |
| 6  | Time Will Tell      | 19 | David Lehr               |
| 8  | The Body Rampant    | 20 | Holy Ghost               |
| 9  | City Lights         | 21 | Critics                  |
| 11 | Still Rings True    | 22 | Rookie of the Year       |
| 13 | The Season Premiere | 23 | The Radio Drive By       |
| 15 | A Past Unknown      | 24 | Forever The Sickest Kids |
|    |                     | 25 | Concert Reviews          |
|    |                     | 26 | Album Reviews            |



Interview by Cynthia Lam

# GIA GO

## What first sparked your interest in music?

I started playing piano when I was 4, and I always made up little songs when I was a kid. It was always fun for me.

## Was music a big part of your life while growing up?

Yes, most of my family plays an instrument, so it was a big part of our household.

## What is the most important thing that you've learned while being in the music industry?

To always remember that I love to do this, and not let anything that happens ruin that! Also, always listen to myself and trust my instincts.

## If you could turn back time, would you do anything in your musical career differently?

Not really, I always tried my best and worked as hard as I possibly could, and I still do that.

## Could you describe your sound, music, lyrics, and you in one word? What would it be and why?

The one word would be truth. I don't force myself to write a song. I only write songs when I'm so inspired that I can't help but write one.

## Where do you draw inspirations for your songs from?

Usually the love of my life at the time. There's definitely a different guy every few years that inspires me to hate him enough to write a full album of material.

## While writing do you aim for a specific genre or age group? Why or why not?

No, because I just write songs that I like listening to. I think I have great taste.

## Is there a lyric or a song that you've written that you are extremely proud of?

Yes, I'm proud of all my songs on this new EP. My favorites are Fade Away, Flashlight, and Fuck You, I'm Fine because those were the most fun to write and I feel the result of my thoughts turned into the perfect musical outcome on those. I love when I have an idea for a song and I can communicate it perfectly through the lyrics and the music.

## Who would you say are your biggest musical influences?

I like Portishead, Ace of Base, Tracy Bonham, Madonna, The Beatles, and The White Stripes

## What are your thoughts about illegally downloading music? Do you see it being the downfall of the music industry?

I love that it's so easy to get music and download it and that if I record something right now this second I can get it out to lots of fans.

I don't see it as a downfall. Connecting by music is amazing and anything to make that easier is great in my eyes.

## What made you decide to give away your EP on purevolume for free?

Because I want as many people to hear it as possible, and it's more important for me to accomplish that than charge for the EP.

## Do you have any plans for the near future?

Yes, I will be shooting some videos for my new EP and collaboration with some other exciting artists. And I want to start working out.





Interview by Cynthia Lam

# WE BUILT ATLANTIS

## How did you meet the other members of We Built Atlantis and decide to start a band?

Jimmy, Dan K and Jono met 4 years ago through different people and started a band back then. It went on until late last year then we decided to start something different. With the 2 new additions of "We Built Atlantis!", Dan N contacted our last band hell keen to play keyboard...he is now our drummer. As for our bass player Jock, our eyes connected with that sexy dude across a dark crowded pub one night and immediately knew he needed to 'slapa da bass' for us.

## You have only been a band for a couple of months, are you happy with all that you have accomplished so far?

So far we are stoked with what has been happening. We've played some great shows, recorded an EP (which will be out in 3 weeks), booked a mini tour and had a lot of good opportunities thrown our way. We can tell now that this year is going to be a good one for us. We are just eagerly awaiting the completion of the EP so we can get some more fresh tracks out there.

## How would you describe We Built Atlantis in one word? Why did you choose this word?

Swell: because it is an old fashion word that doesn't get used enough. Am I trying to bring back the word? Maybe. Are we swell? Yes!

## You have a song up on your purevolume called "Breathe Less, Breathless". Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from the song?

The feedback from "Breathe Less, Breathless" is amazing. That is the only song we have online for people to listen to at the moment and from this one track we have been getting some

amazing opportunities from different businesses and great supports for overseas bands. As for fans, that song has dramatically increased our fan base. Especially at shows, looking out into the crowd watching people sing the chorus back at us is an incredible feeling.

## Lyricaly, what is the song about?

Lyricaly the song is about not being able to let go of someone that has conquered your heart, how there will always be a few strings attached no matter how hard to try to sever them...We're forever tied to past loves and loses.

## Would you say that We Built Atlantis differs from other bands? How?

I guess we're different because we have really poppy, catchy choruses but also have brutal breakdowns. The addition of the synth and dance sections just make it fun for kids. Were not too serious, we just love playing music. We just want heaps of people dancing and having fun when they come see us and we try and make it fun, exiting and entertaining with every show we play.

## Are there any local bands that have influenced or inspired you in any way?

Watching other local bands definitely influenced us to start bands in the first place. We have a bit of inspiration from local bands, although we all listen to slightly different genres of music. There are a few local bands starting to use synth in their music but we are still very different from local bands as we try to keep our music more poppy than heavy and we include lots of dance sections.

## What should fans expect at a We Built Atlantis show?

You should expect us to be slightly drunk playing a game of cricket outside any venue we

play. Bats and balls are permanently in the car. Inside the venue you should expect a fun and swell experience...We are there to dance and get down. People always respond well to our crazy and free spirited approach...

## Have you ever pulled any crazy antics on stage or during practice?

We opened a show for an American band called "The Classic Crime" once. We were supposed to play at 5.10, but we started at 5.15. We started playing but there was barely any people there. We got through the first 2 songs of our set and then the promoter came and told us that the show was running behind and doors hadn't even opened yet. It was a huge 2 song line check, then we had to play the same songs again 10 minutes later. It was fun. Besides that show, we try and make it fun and memorable by getting people on stage to dance or by us leaving the stage to dance.

## Do you have any plans for this summer?

Your summer is our winter...so for our winter, we will have our EP out and will do a few mini tours around the east coast of Australia. Thats about all we have planned so far but we will work on some more exciting things. Hopefully we will have something exciting planned for the summer. We have plenty of time to plan! Our EP "Empty Cities" will be out on iTunes and BigCartel late May, and we will upload our single to Facebook as soon as possible. Until then feel free to follow us at the links below. Cheers guys, WBA!

[www.facebook.com/webuiltatlantis](http://www.facebook.com/webuiltatlantis)

[www.purevolume.com/webuiltatlantis](http://www.purevolume.com/webuiltatlantis)

[www.twitter.com/webuiltatlantis](http://www.twitter.com/webuiltatlantis)



## KIERAN STRANGE

Interview by Sarah Lozano



**How would you describe yourself in one word?**  
STRANGE!

**How long have been writing songs?**

The first song I ever wrote was when I was three. I formed a "band", quote on quote, with my neighbour and best friend, and we had two original songs for which we wrote melody, lyrics and a drum beat (my little kiddie's drum kit was the only instrument we had). I used to write lyrics and melody only in the two "real" bands I was in, but now that I'm independent I've been writing everything myself since last February or so.

**What's one of the first songs you wrote?**

Well, the first song I ever wrote was when I was three. It had verse, chorus and bridge - pretty impressive for a toddler! But the first "proper" song I wrote, after I moved to Canada, was called "Nervosa". It was a hardcore punk song about an eating disorder, and went through several different versions before I just wrote my own chords for it.

**How do you think your writing has improved since that song?**

I think I have a better grasp of song structure now, and how to write catchier stuff. The great thing about songwriting is that I'm constantly improving!

**Who are few musical inspirations that you think people might be surprised by?**

I'm really digging Depeche Mode, have done since I was a little kid. I love how deep their lyrics are, and their melodies and music are proper catchy. I love Queen, I loved Freddie Mercury. He was a legend. I was also a big fan of Michael Jackson's music, and David Bowie.

**If you could go on tour with band/artist in the world who would it be?**

Hmmm, I know that I would LOVE to go on Warped Tour. But I think if I had to choose one band I would say My Chemical Romance. We seem to have a lot of the same hobbies and interests... Touring with any of my favourite bands would be an honor, though.

**You have a very lovely style. Where are some of your favorite places to shop?**

Oh, thanks, mate! Honestly, I don't really have any "go to" places to shop... I usually tend to wander up and down Granville and Robson Streets in Vancouver and see if anything catches my eye. It's pretty crazy what some of the vintage stores and independently owned places carry, and it's always more fun than hitting up a big chain store. In England I used to like to shop at H&M (it's just not the same in Canada) and this store called One Legged Jockey.

**What's been the hardest part for you as a musician?**

I think just having to motivate yourself every day to keep pushing and pushing and pushing. It's a fun job, but it's also a lot of hard, back-breaking work and a lot of rehearsing the same thing over and over. Guitar scales and vocal exercises. Even the best players in the world still practice the basics day in, day out. I've gotten a lot of crap from people over the years - people telling me that I'll never make it, that it's pointless to chase such a far-off-dream, and motivating yourself through that and keeping positive can be really tough and painful at times. I've been kicked out of a band for not being a good enough vocalist and then my other band split up because the guitarist wanted a solo career which really sucked, but I think this is what they call "paying your dues", ha ha.

**If you weren't in the music industry as an artist, would you still want to be in the music industry as a song writer or anything else?**

Man, I'd make a terrible band manager. Ha ha! I think I would love to write songs for other people, that would be pretty epic. I could see myself doing photography, or music journalism. Something that expresses my creative side. Still, I think if I hadn't decided to chase my dream of music, I would've probably ended up in med school!

**What's the best advice you can give to any other upcoming artist?**

Believe in yourself. Work hard every single damn day. Both of those are just as important as the other. Just never stop trying, take every opportunity you can, and don't let people drag you down, because there will always be  
5 someone who wants to do just that. It's your dream, man - grab it with both hands and don't let go!





Interview with Chris Minor Ciardiello Interview by Cynthia Lam

# TIME WILL TELL

## How did you meet the other members of Time Will Tell?

I (Chris the lead singer) met Mike through the internet and went to high school with our bassist Cristian...we got in touch with Matt through the local music scene...the final piece of the puzzle came when Mike got his old high school buddy Tiz to drum for us. FYI the internet site me and Mike met on was match.com... I really hope you guys enjoy sarcasm because I am an asshole. Lol.

## You guys are set to release a new EP - what is the recording and writing process for it going like so far?

The EP is actually finished right now, we have the final mastered tracks ready to go - we're waiting to release it for complicated reasons-label issues and what not. We're really excited about getting new music out there. We actually are already writing songs for a full length and hopefully well have enough songs for like 3 full lengths by the end of summer lol. Im actually really excited about the stuff we are writing right now. The band has been through a lot since we finished recording the EP and the amount of growth we have seen since recording the EP has been amazing.

## How is a Time Will Tell song generated?

Me and mike write a lot of the songs in my room acoustically and bring them to the band. I usually write the lyrics/melodies, other times Mike/Christian/Matt or I will bring in a riff and the band will mess with it turn it into a song add leads and then I'll go home and write words to it. Tiz is an amazing drummer and usually has complete freedom to do whatever the hell he wants with every song. We don't stop him lol we usually love the first thing he plays. The band has a lot of freedom everyone works together and brings ideas to the table.

## Do you ever get into arguments about a way a song should be written or anything like that?

Haha yes definitely. In the beginning we would argue about what should come first melodies/ lyrics or music, like should we write melodies/ lyrics to the music or music to the melodies/ lyrics, it was a big issue in the beginning and even was up until the EP was recorded. Recently things have changed however, now we come in and just play what comes to us and build off each others ideas. It took us a little while of playing together to realize there is no right way to write a song. there's no step

by step process. It just comes out and when it comes you better be ready for it or you could miss out on something great. On a side note arguing is always gonna happen. I believe tonight I argued with Matt because he is a broke homeless person who owes me money, at the end of the day we love each other though. It's like a family you know you get over the fights quick, and as long as everyone refers to me as King Chris Czar of all mortals, every single time they say my name then we're all good.

## What are your feelings on autotune used in songs?

To each his own, man. if you wanna use it use it if you don't then don't. Just play what you love and if people hate you for it then screw em.

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**When was your first show as a band?  
What were you feeling before you went  
on stage? How did the show go?**

Our first show as a band was at TCNJ. I felt pretty shitty that day, I had laryngitis. The stage setup wasn't what I was expecting, it was in like this cafe style setting with a small stage and a bunch of dining tables. The guys before us were just playing some acoustic covers and I was like christ we're so out of place. I was nervous they were gonna be like "why the hell are these guys playing so loud we're trying to eat here" Anyways in the end we were just like fuck it. We actually wound up walking on stage to "fuck you" by C-Lo green lol I think everyone was a little confused as to what was going on but the show went great and at the end of it we were offered a gig with Say Anything which was pretty sweet.

**Have you ever had any embarrassing  
moments on stage?**

Hells yes! Second round of the break contest I was all amped up on energy drinks and oxygen and I literally jumped around on stage so much for the first two songs that

when we got the recordings back I heard that I sang completely out of key and I felt like such an asshole. I was overly excited and let my emotions get the best of me. Luckily we advanced and now we're playing bamboozle May 1st so go figure. My advice to anyone else in a band go up there and have fun its 75% of the battle even if you suck if you show people you're having a good time and that your genuine they'll have a good time with you.

**If you could play with any two bands who  
would they be and why?**

God this is ridiculously hard to answer. It depends on the mood Im in, if I was like in have a good time party mode id have to play with like Blink. If I wanted to play with someone who really influenced me growing up it'd be brand new and Jesse Lacey. Lately with the mood I've been in, I've just been dying to play with 98 degreez if they ever do a come back tour I will be on it. What other boy band was gangster enough to spell their name with a Z instead of an S? I'm not even sure technically if 98 degreez did that but you know what, this is my

fantasy and in my fantasy they did and I love them. Nick Lachey 4 ev 143<3xox

**Are there any bands that you've seen live  
that have really blown you away with  
their life show?**

If Charlie Sheen was a band his Life Show is whats figuratively blowing me away right now... winning

**Is there a latest trend that you like or  
dislike?**

TWT is starting a trend its called make fun of Matt...feel free to text him 973-800-9064 and harass the shit out of him.

**Do you have any plans for the summer?**

Bamboozle May 1st to kick off the summer then we will be playing shows and shooting a music video in may followed by our first tour this june. We're also in talks to get on warped so if that happens things could really change course.







Interview by Cynthia Lam

# THE BODY RAMPANT

**Being a band in the LA / California area, are there any bands that have influenced or inspired you?**

Being from Los Angeles definitely keeps you open minded about music in general. There are many legendary bands that have evolved out of LA as well as new bands like Letlive. We're inspired by music from all over the world, and Los Angeles has a lot of bands to choose from.

**Would you say that The Body Rampant differs from other bands who would be considered "in your scene"?**

Yes and No. We do our own thing. We want to have a familiar sound that people can latch onto and relate to, while thinking outside of the box all the while.

**What, in your opinion, is the most important thing to keep in mind while being in the music industry?**

There is always some type of work to be done. Always reach out to new people because you never know who will fall in love with your music.

**You recently released a new album Transient Years on April 5th. Are you happy with the feedback that you got from the album?**

The feedback has been amazing. We respond to every message and comment and love

communicating with our fans, no matter how busy we may be.

**What was it like working with Casey Bates for this album?**

Casey is an animal. His hands work faster than a hummingbird thinks. He trimmed some fat off our songs and basically let us do whatever the hell we wanted. We told him we just wanted to sound huge and he did just that!

**Are there any songs on the album that you particularly like? What are they about?**

My favorite song on the EP is probably Midwest Mistrust. Musically, its the first song that was written for the EP and reflects on how friendship can quickly dwindle when jealousy and greed come into place.

**Do you ever get into arguments as a band about songs or how they should go?**

We never argue. We always have different opinions but we all respect each other and listen to them all. Even when were stranded on the side of the road with a busted van and or trailer, we're all smiles.

**What was the biggest challenge that you had to face as a band?**

Like previously mentioned, our van and trailer have broken on us on two separate occasions. We have done two tours and have

been unfortunate enough to deal with auto problems on both trips. As a band, its hard to stand out in the music scene and we try to do that by hard work and long hours.

**Is there a band or person that you would want to trade places with for a day?**

Being Dave Grohl for a day while they're on tour wouldn't be too shabby =)

**What is the craziest thing that you've pulled off during a show?**

At SXSW it seemed to be 200 degrees outside on the roof we performed on. We played a 20 minute set and almost passed out afterwards, somehow we killed it and was our favorite show to this day.

**Is there a message that you'd like to send through music?**

We want people to be able to put in our cd on a bad day, and forget about all their problems and just live. Our band is based around the idea that everyone has a unique gift and talent and its just about finding that and showing it to the world.

**What should we expect from The Body Rampant in the future?**

New music, new videos, more shows, hopefully some touring.



# CITY LIGHTS

Interview by Catherine Khom

**What are some of your favorite bands you looked up to and would you ever considered going on tour or doing a collaboration with them? Why or why not?**

My favorite bands in our genre are Blink 182, Saves The Day, New Found Glory, and The Movie Life. I've said in previous interviews that this would be our dream tour. with us headlining of course.

**What is one thing you dislike most about performing live and what is one thing you love most about recording music?**

Performing live makes you realize how out of shape you are and how you need to stop eating double cheeseburgers. that's the only thing I hate about it haha. Recording music is my favorite part of being in a band. Getting your ideas out of your head and turning them into something you can listen to as a whole is really rewarding.

**How has your music taste changed from five years ago till now?**

I think I've learned not to fall as much for the image and "star power" of the bands I listen to. I don't judge a book by its cover as much.

I just listen to the music and if I like it, I'll listen to it no matter what the genre or style.

**Growing up in Ohio, what were some local bands you grew up with and what are some memories you had with them?**

My biggest memory is of the band Capital Tragedy. They were one of the first bands in the Columbus music scene to really stand out. They never got signed or became huge or anything, but they set the standard and the foundation for the Ohio music scene as it is today. I remember going to their shows and screaming every single word. Then I actually got a chance to play bass in the band for a little bit before they disbanded. lots of good memories there.

**What are some of your plans you have for the summer? Any surprises you can tell to your fans?**

We have a really solid team behind our band right now, and I think it's gonna lead to some extensive touring in the summer, and for the rest of the year. I think fans will be surprised to see the bands that we'll be touring with. We're not sticking to just other pop punk

bands. We'll be out with hardcore bands, pop bands, screamo bands, as well as pop punk bands. We want to really mix it up and play in front of a lot of different people.

**Out of all the songs, you performed which is by far your favorite and what connection do you have towards that song?**

My favorite song right now is our latest single "Where You've Been" it's really fun to play live and the lyrics are really positive. being in an unsigned touring band, it's really important to keep the positivity up. that song helps me get through every day when we play it on tour.

**What are some things you do before you get ready to perform live?**

Shave my chest so when I take my shirt off I look sexy.

**What is one meal, you can have over and over again from what place?**

Chipotle.

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**What is your description of music and why do you think others should listen to music more?**

We're really influenced by old school pop punk. I think some of the chorus-driven catchiness of a lot of bands like new found glory and the starting line is missing from a lot of pop punk bands today, and we try to keep that present in our songs. On the other hand, we don't let the past hold us down. We try to keep our music as new and as fresh as possible at all times. Fans can expect good things from the old school and the new school of pop punk and hardcore in our band.

**What are some exclusive news coming up for the band?**

Coming up we'll be doing a music video, and recording a new cover song. This will happen in the next couple of months.

**What are some goals you want to accomplish this year of 2011?**

Get on the road and tour as much as possible. I want to hit every state by the end of the year for sure. the west coast is at the top of my list.

**What is like to perform on stage with the band and fans singing to their every word of your songs?**

It's the reason I'm in a band. It's been my dream every since I was a little kid. I never knew it was actually possible haha.

**If you could be any super hero or cartoon who would it be and why?**

Han solo, cause he's a ladies man and doesn't put up with anyone's crap haha.

**What song would you want to be your next single to be and why?**

Every time I write a song I think to myself "this would be a great single" so I'm guessing the next song I write. For now, I'm stoked that "Where You've Been" is our single. I think it represents our band very well as a whole.

**If you were to plan out a music video for any of your songs what song would it be and what would the video be about?**

I would just want as many of our friends/fans in it as possible just hanging out and having a good time. Nothing too artsy, just something that lifts the spirits and makes people smile and get excited.



# STILL RINGS TRUE

**The last album that you've released is *Anger Is A Gift* that was released this past December. How does the new album differ from AIAG?**

I wouldn't necessarily say it's different from *Anger Is A Gift*, because that EP is basically a 4 song teaser for this upcoming release. All the songs for this new record, including the 4 first release versions of the AIAG song, were written with each other in mind, and it's definitely our most cohesive release to date. After we released 'I Wouldn't Call This Living' we realized that we weren't hitting the emotional note we were going for, the music wasn't necessarily getting the anger and intensity across that I was putting in to our lyrics, so we started writing more of what we wanted to hear and less of what we thought was expected of us. The result is this new record, super fast and melodic still, but very dark, intense and hostile, musically and lyrically. This is definitely the release that we want to define our band for the rest of lives, and we're extremely proud and happy with how it's coming out.

**Is there a song on the album that is very meaningful to you? What is it about? Has there been a set release date or album title for the new record?**

For anyone who's listened to SRT before, it's obvious that we have a message we're trying to get across, so lyrically, our songs usually revolve around that topic and things related to it. There's nothing more important in this life to me than getting young people to think about their lives and the world around them, therefor EVERY song is meaningful to us, ya know? But yeah, we've set a release date, June 10th will be the day the record will be available across the board: itunes, bigcartel, and at shows. The title of the new record is 'Tear Down The Walls'.

**What's your opinion on illegally downloading of music?**

Hmm, this is kind of a tricky one. I don't know if I have an opinion either way, as much as I feel it's important to look at the context of how it's happening. If some kid is downloading songs or records from some huge world known mainstream band

or artist, then I really don't think it's a big deal, these people are wealthy, and it doesn't necessarily harm them on the level that it does smaller, more independent bands and artists. Honestly, a lot of bands/artists at that level are merely selling a product anyway, and as with anything designed to be sold, you can expect it to be stolen. At least that's the way it should be haha. That being said, I feel that the kind of people that gravitate towards the underground music community, being punk rock, hardcore, etc, are more aware of the fact that their favorite bands are sacrificing and suffering financially in most cases to be able to do what they do. I feel that these kind of music fans take how they get their music a little more seriously, and are more likely to buy their favorite bands music to support them, rather than illegally downloading it.

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**What can fans expect from the new record?**

People who have been into us from the beginning can expect to hear the obvious next step in our growth, in that we're really not trying to re-make ourselves every release, we're really just trying to do what we do better every time we do it. We're a punk rock band, we love loud, fast, heavy music. We're socially conscious dudes, and our music revolves around that mindset. It's definitely our most lyrically up front record yet in terms of what we're trying to say with our music. It's alot darker and more aggressive than anything we've done before, and we're super excited and stoked on it. We really found our sound with this batch of songs, and we're ready to take it as far as we can.

**Has the local music scene in Watertown, NY influenced you in any way?**

Our local scene is EVERYTHING to us. To this day it's still where we see some of our biggest crowds, our most intense shows, and craziest crowd responses. Not that we don't get these things everywhere else and love playing shows and touring, but I think most bands can tell you, hometown shows hold a special spot in your heart. We love these fucking kids, this is all for them.

**Do you plan on releasing a single and a music video as a representative of the album?**

We're not really a 'single' type of band, being that we look to write records that you can

listen to front to back, where every song has the potential to be a favorite. When you look at it like that, it's kind of hard to go through and pick a single song you want to represent your album or whatever. Regardless, kids have a tendency to show you what their favorite songs are anyway, when they're screaming them in your face every night. As for a music video, yeah, we're talking about giving it a shot. We have a whole summer of touring to get through before we can take the time to really sit down and hash that out though. Guess you'll just have to wait and see...

**What is your favourite thing about each of your band members?**

I think my favorite thing about the two other dudes in my band is just simply the fact that they're in my band hahahaha! I mean, we're all pretty different from each other, as most individuals are. That's the thing about being in a band, you have to be able to find the right people that you can sit down with and create something bigger than yourselves. That's what I love most about my band, our ability to do what we do on the level that we do it. We're very very very in tune with each other musically, and that shows in our songwriting and live shows. Their my dudes haha.

**In what ways has the band evolved since the first EP released?**

Oh shit, that's a good one. Well, to put it as bluntly as possible, for about the first year this band was alive, we had some extra members,

and we weren't creating music we were fully proud of. We were a 4 piece, and there was always a lot of bickering and pushing and shoving about what kind of music we wanted to create. So that first EP was basically a mash of everyone trying to throw their two cents in, and honestly, we're not very happy with it. When everyone isn't on the same page musically in a band, it's really hard to create something that everyone can be proud of. It was only when we dropped our 2nd guitar player and became a 3 piece that we really fell in to our own and became who we are today. That was right around the time we started writing for what eventually became our first full length, 'I Wouldn't Call This Living'. I'm the primary song writer in SRT, but we're all so in tune musically and on the same page, that I can come in with something started, and we can just sit down and finish it together, ending up with something we're all in love with. For the 3 of us in the band now, what we're doing with our most recent releases is what we WANTED to do all along, but it was only when we were able to get around a few road blocks that we were free to really go for it.

**Is there anything else that you'd like to say to our readers?**

Come out to shows, check out our new record, and question authority. I guess that's pretty much it. We'll see you guys on the road!





Interview by Catherine Khom

# THE SEASON PREMIERE

How do you feel about those bands who are to make it "BIG" in Hollywood? Do you think it is the right path to take to find their way to success?

**Justin:** I think there is no particular way of reaching success. Its different for each band and individual. In my opinion I just don't think that will be our bands personal route to success.

**Travis:** I'm with Justin on this question.

**Riley:** I think being BIG in Hollywood truly isn't enough. We want to strive for more than just being big in Hollywood, we want to reach people all around the world!

**Terrence:** I think as long as we stay true to ourselves and love what we are doing there is no right or wrong answer on how to become successful and the path that leads you there.

What other possible careers came across your mind and you might use the other as a backup "career"?

**Terrence:** I actually was studying to be a doctor. I just didn't feel as though that was my purpose in life, my purpose was to play music with my brother, Travis, and my friends.

**Travis:** I am certified to be a teacher and have credentials to do so. I love teaching and I love children, however, music is where my heart is, and that's where it will remain for years to come.

**Justin:** I was actually scheduled to go intern for Epic Records in LA last summer because I was

interested in working at a record label as an A&R or as an agent at a talent management company. However, my is my life right now and I cant imagine not performing and writing music full time.

**Riley:** As a back up career I have always had the option of being a studio musician and it is still something imp interested in doing simultaneously while this band takes off.

Why is music a great amount of impact on you? Did you come from a music background?

**Travis:** It gives us an outlet to express our feelings, what could be better?

**Justin:** Music is a way for us to impact this nations youth in a positive way. We have a chance to impact people the way musicians have impacted our life. I definitely come from a music back round, my father is a great drummer and singer and has always pushed me towards singing and performing. The best experiences vie had are having our fans tell me how much our words and music means to them and helps them through their day. Its such a blessing to hear and really makes me feel like imp doing my job.

**Riley:** Music is my air, I couldn't live without it. My family is extremely music oriented and drives me to be better as a musician everyday, I wouldn't be anywhere without them.

What did you grew up listening to through your teen years till now? Do you think your personal style of music changed and why?

**Riley:** I listened to everything. My parents had me listening to tons of classic rock, Zeppelin, Tom Petty, and many others. It all has made me apart of who I am as a musician. I still find myself listening to things that I listened to 10 years ago. That's what is great about music, some of it can be timeless.

**Travis:** I listened to a lot of folk rock! Vie always been into just true, uncut, real music and nothing has really ever changed over the years.

**Terrence:** Since Travis and I grew up together, we grew up listening to a lot of the same kind of music. We basically just shared music and exchanged artists that we both liked, and funny enough, we still do that until this day.

**Justin:** I grew up listening to tons of 90s rock and early classic rock. My dads music choice is like the soundtrack to my childhood and was filled with The Eagles, Journey, Huey Lewis & The News, and Tom Petty. All of which are great bands and have affected my songwriting. My music choice and style hasn't really changed over the years, its stayed pretty consistent.

CONTINUED >>

Do you think musicians have the access to remain their personal life private or should be public? Since their are more social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, what do you think, why or why not?

Its up to the musicians. On our behalf, there will always be things that we keep private and that are too personal to exploit to the public. But getting to know our band as individuals is something we encourage and that we really feel is something we want our fans to have access to so that they can better identify with our music.

What would be your destined dream tour?

We would love to tour Australia! Every band would be treated like the headliner. Have their own custom set and the possibilities for theatrics would be endless. Kind of a "You Call It Tour". We would bring bands on tour that reflect our ideals and our way of life best. Probably bring some of our friends

bands like Anarbor, The Downtown Fiction, Reece, & Valencia.

How is the writing process like with TSP and what is like in the studio?

**Travis:** We all write together as a group. Usually, I will come up with a new chord progression, show it to the band and if they like it we just usually dive in and start writing some melodies and lyrics.

**Justin:** The studio is one of the best times you can ask for as a band. Its amazing to watch all of your hard work and songwriting come together, Its also pretty fun watching your band members do the best work they are capable of!

If their were one clothing brand or accessories line you would collaborate with who would it be, what product would you collaborate and what would it say and why? Doing a collaboration with H&M would be pretty awesome. Doing a whole line revolved around our band and our own individual styles. It would promote positivity

and have some of our most encouraging lyrics written all over them.

What subject in high school would you want to add in the school system?

A music management course. It would have been nice to get a head start and gain some knowledge about the music industry. it is definitely a course that all of us would take.

What are your goals and plans for this spring and summer, that The Season Premiere has in store for fans?

We are recording our new EP "For All The Lovers" at the moment that will be released in late May/Early June. Along with the EP will be the release of our first music video for our single called "Anything But Love". As far as the summer goes, you can expect us to be on tour for a couple weeks in July & August. We cant announce with who yet, but stay tuned for updates. We ensure that 2011 holds many good things in store for us.







# A PAST UNKNOWN

Interview with Grant  
Interview by Bianca Delicata

## How was recording *To Those Perishing*?

Recording was such a great experience. We were able to record this album with Jamie King (For Today, Alesana, Between the Buried and me) and being able to learn from him and have him talk about everything in the music industry was a privilege, he is definitely very knowledgeable and awesome at the recording process and just an awesome guy in general.

## Which do you prefer, recording or touring?

We definitely prefer touring. Being in the studio takes so much time and it's a drawn out process, well worth it, but it takes time. Being on the road is what we love to do, meeting new people and playing shows is such an incredible experience night in and night out, it's all about the people!

## What do you find it the most challenging thing about being in the studio?

Probably would be the down time sitting around and waiting for your turn to record. And then when it is your time to record, having to do takes over and over again until it's just right. Definitely can get to you! But hearing the finished product is well worth all of the retakes!

## Will there be a special tour or date that will support the new record?

This record is going to be out on July 5th on Red Cord Records! We will be touring nonstop starting in June to support this album!

## How did you, as a band meet and how long have you known each other?

We all met at college around the exact same time! We have known each other for almost 3 years now and we are all like brothers. This group of guys have helped me with so much and we help each other out with anything, whether it's something we need prayer for, need to talk about struggles we are facing, anything, we always help each other out and they are definitely gifts from God.

## When did you begin writing for TTP?

We went on tour last year with our good friends "Deception of a Ghost" who highly suggested that we go record a full length album and that was in July of 2010. We had about 6 songs written for the album so we decided to take July-December off to write another 5 songs for the album.

## What sparked your interest in music? Was there a specific show or event?

I think music is engraved in every single individual. The question is never "do you listen to music?", the question is "what kind of music do you listen to?" Every single person has their own style of music, I think it's something God put in every single one of us as a form of worship. For me, I have loved music ever since I could remember but the earlier music of Blindside, August Burns Red, Underoath really got me hooked on hardcore music and can't get enough of it to this day.

## How does your music reach out to teens, or your target audience?

Our music, and what we want our music to do, is relate to everyone. This world hurts and people hurt, I myself have been through a lot of hurt and it is only by the grace of Jesus I am where I am today and have been renewed and restored. I write a lot about my past, what I've been through and my life experiences and we want that to relate to anyone and everyone. There is hope, and there is a lot of false hope. We have found true hope in Jesus Christ. We've been through addictions of sex, drugs, alcohol only hoping that would ease our emptiness but it didn't happen. We are broken people who need and love Jesus and we try to share that message with everyone, because in one way or another, everyone can relate.

## Were your family and friends supportive of your choice to be in a band and tour?

To be honest, yes and no. We have some people/family that are very supportive of what we do and others not so much. Some in the "christian" community and others outside of the "christian" community. Because our music projects a lot of anger (screaming), people don't want to support it, but get to know the lyrics and you will know exactly what we stand for whether you like the genre of music or not.

## Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

There will be awesome things in store so make sure you follow us on facebook ([www.facebook.com/apastunknown](http://www.facebook.com/apastunknown)). You will see us on Cornerstone and Lifest and touring constantly throughout the country! We would love to meet all of you so talk to us!



# THE RELAY COMPANY

## What makes your music diverse from other bands and describe the genre of your music?

Our new record "X" has a very dance/ rock vibe to it. We know there are a lot of bands out there that could generalize into that same category, but often times we find it hard to really compare ourselves to any one specific genre or group. We are compared to Boys Like Girls, Cobra Starship, Lady Gaga, and even The Jonas Brothers...(who knows?!). That being said, we're happy that it seems we have a unique sound and character of our own that distinguishes itself from other acts.

## If you could create an app for a computer or cell phone, what would it be and why?

A party app, duh! An app that lets you know where all the hot parties are. Need we explain why?

## Do you think your music have an effect from where you live and why?

We have grown up in an area where many local bands have developed from the late 90s's/ early 2000's pop rock scene (Blink 182, Green Day, New Found Glory, etc..) That being said, our music definitely evolved from an early influence in that genre. Classic Burgers in Los Gatos is The Relay Company's #1 choice for premiere burger damage. Excellent.

## If were to switch lives with some would it be and why?

Would be pretty cool to switch lives with the President. To have a day experiencing something that the regular person will never have the opportunity to do would be pretty eye opening.

## When you were sixteen, what were aspiring to be when you grew up?

Funny you say that. We just pulled out some of our old yearbooks from middle school, and all of the notes from our friends were wishing us and our band good luck for the future, etc.. telling us they know we'll "go big" one day! That was in 8th grade, and were still here now (10 years later) rocking the same dreams to turn our music into a career.

## What television commercial would you love to create and who would you bring along side?

ShamWow! And we would bring along the guys from the God Neighbor Stuff YouTube Channel.

## If you could sing at any venue or festival in the world, where would it be and why?

OctoberFest in Germany. Everyone is drunk, we could play whatever we want!

## What are your plans for this spring and upcoming summer that you can share with fans?

We'll be performing throughout California, Arizona, and Las Vegas in April/ May. We hope people can make it out to the shows! We also have plans to release some new content on Youtube/ Facebook. Possibly some acoustic tracks from songs on our "X" record.

## If you could direct a movie, what would the plot be about it? Where would it take place? and who would you cast to star in your movie?

Make a movie about our band and it's evolution. Rob Pattison could be Adam, Chris Farley would have been Stephen, Samuel L Jackson could be Jake, and then we'd have to figure out who would be all of the past members etc in the band, but it would be pretty sweet.

## What is your favorite song to record?

We had a blast recording our single "Marco Polo". Similar to the rest of our songs, we had a great time experimenting with different synthesizer sounds to find the best one to fit with the song, also the vocal production and overall vibe of the song made it fun. "Remedy La Da Da" is one of our most fun songs to play, it has a lot of fun guitar progressions and arrangements.

## What message are you trying to address to all your fans? What personal experience which music has saved your life and explain why?

We want our fans to have fun with our music. Our "X" record was a party to make, and we want it to be a party to listen to. We also hope our listeners can find ways to relate to the lyrical messages in the songs. Although we do write our songs based off of personal experience, we try to write them in a way that allows others to relate and grasp on to so that the song can become their song too.





Interview by Catherine Khom

# JUSTIN TYLER

**What is it like to be a musician in Long Beach, California? What are some things that inspired you to write music?**

Its awesome! Long Beach is a great city. All my songs are usually about girls :)

**What are some local musicians and bands you recommend your fans to definitely check out and listen to?**

Assemble The Skyline, Yultron, & Scarlet Grey. They're all good friends of mine & are just as hardworking musicians as me & I respect that.

**If you could visit any where in the world for one week, where would it be, who would you bring and what would you plan to do?**

Paris, & bring my band and play shows over there! That would be way awesome!

**If were to attend to any concert within this week, where would it be and why?**

Jonas Brothers! Huge influence on my music & they put on a good show.

**What were some artists or musicians you grew up listening to and what song will always be your favorite?**

I grew up listening to Taking Back Sunday, The Beatles, & Sum 41, I don't really have a favorite song. All of those bands were awesome & still are.

**You are very well known for promoting your music to others, how would you explain the drive and momentum you have for your passion of music?**

I'm huge promoter when it comes to my music! I look at this way if I'm not out there at shows & talking/promoting to people in person, they're never going to know who I am. So I make sure I'm at every show that's in my genre promoting to fans.

**What are some things you are mostly looking forward to and why?**

I look forward to touring the country & playing for all my fans!

**Any news up for you? If you were to create a music video of any of your songs chosen, what would you chose?**

I actually have big news coming up! I'm announcing a new band that I'm forming in a week or so & the new single we're making a music video for it.

**What are some tips for others starting out who wants to pursue to become a singer in a band?**

There is so much competition in the music industry let alone just in SoCal. To be a musician you have to be dedicated & be willing to give it everything you have. Also be confident/proud of you music so you can talk to anyone about it.

**What is the most difficult thing about being in the recording studio and why?**

I'd say recording vocals is the hardest because you can lose your voice easily trying to get that right note in a song.

**If you were to name your future album on the spot, what would the title be and be written mostly about?**

Probably *The Golden Times* or *Picture This* & it would just be about love & all the great times that comes with it.

**How can you describe the type of music you play?**

I always say its just straight POP & its very fun & upbeat.

**What are some things fans might not know about you?**

I love blueberries! Harry Potter is my favorite book series & I secretly wish I was a wizard. I used to play golf in high school. I still watch cartoons. I don't drink or do drugs. I don't like chocolate I'm more of a sour patch kid.

**Any last words you want to add and shout outs to anyone or fans?**

I would just like to thank everyone who supports me & buys my music! And I would like to make sure you guys continue to support me when I announce my new band! I love you all!



# PIERCE THE VEIL

Photo & Interview by Cynthia Lam



Since we last caught up with Pierce The Veil at Warped Tour 2010, they have travelled throughout the world, including places like New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. Their fanbase has also been rapidly blooming since the release of their second studio album *Selfish Machines* in July. We caught up with Vic Fuentes (vocals, guitar), Jaime Preciado (bass) and Mike Fuentes (drums) during the Vancouver stop of the *Gamechangers* tour to talk about the band, live shows, and tour pranks.

What was your favourite memory going to a show as a kid?

**Jaime:** I remember going to see Thursday, Coheed and Cambria, and Thrice. That was like the shows of shows in high school. All my friends were there, and it was the best time. I met Claudio, the singer of Coheed and Cambria, and it was the first time I went up to someone and said "Hey man".

**Vic:** Did you touch his hair?

**Jaime:** I touched his hand. I was like "Dude, you're an amazing singer" and he was like "Give me some knuckle bro" and I still remember that.

**Mike:** I think for me, going to local shows, just when I first started getting into the scene. I didn't even care what the band was, I'd just go to the local venue in San Diego.

**Vic:** I was kinda the same way, just going to local shows, and we were playing backyard parties, stuff like that.

Is there a song or lyric that you've written that you're really proud of?

**Vic:** A lot of kids get tattooed "Forget Regret"

on them, I didn't know that it was going to be something but it just caught on and tons of them have them on their wrists, and chest, it's kinda cool.

How do you feel about kids getting it tattooed?

**Vic:** It's awesome. It's like the ultimate compliment. Whenever I see it I don't know what to say.

Have you ever doubted being in a band and touring?

**Mike:** This is what we've wanted to do.

**Vic:** I'm going to go till I'm 98 years old... even a hundred.

**Jaime:** Luckily for us the band has gotten bigger I guess, but even if we were playing to twenty kids we'd still be doing the same thing.

How do you handle having a band day and still having to perform?

**Vic:** Mike had a bad day yesterday, was feeling very sick, almost had to go to the hospital.

**Mike:** Yesterday I basically felt like I was going to pass out before the set and there was no way that I was not gonna play. I just kinda sucked it up and had the medic there, ready if I was going to pass out.

**Vic:** We were just planning, like alright, if he passes out, we're gonna cut the set.

Have you ever had a problem with a fan crossing the line with respecting your privacy?

**Vic:** Pretty much everyday when it comes to barricade. They get a little touchy feely. The

other night, I think they were just going for the abs, they just wanted to feel the abs. I was shooing them away.

**Jaime:** That's only happened to me one time and it's really awkward. I don't know how you do it. Most of the fans are stoked to be hanging out, we usually go out and say hey to kids.

What's the craziest tour prank that has ever happened to you?

**Jaime:** We were on a tour... it was Taste Of Chaos, Bring Me The Horizon, Four Year Strong, and for some reason they thought it would be funny to get us, and by us I mean me. What they did was they put a bunch of hot sauce on it, so the first song, I go to scream, breathe in, and just get this hot sauce mic, which was the worst thing.

**Mike:** That was when you hated hot sauce.

**Jaime:** Well I mean I'm trying to scream, and it's burning my [throat], I was sweating and it sucked. So I go and get my water, and the sound guy from Bring Me The Horizon had my water, so I had to wait a song. He finally puts a water, I take it and chug it, they changed the water, it was gin. I legitimately drank half a bottle of gin thinking it was water.

**Vic:** Four Year tried to get us, we used to write stuff at the back of our guitar with tape, and we'd put them up, we did it with three guitars so they wrote "I Heart Cock" or something like that, but we saw it before we went on.

**Vic:** We got Of Mice And Men pretty good.

**Jaime:** We went on stage with a bunch of gaff tape, we taped them all together, it was pretty funny.

Watch the full interview with Pierce The Veil here:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYZWyyGZ8Ao&feature=channel\\_video\\_title](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYZWyyGZ8Ao&feature=channel_video_title)





Interview by Cynthia Lam

# DAVID LEHR

**Who were your musical influences growing up? Are they more or less the same now?**

Believe it or not, I was really into some heavier music growing up. Stuff like Three Days Grace and Breaking Benjamin. The music I listen to now is more along the lines of Cartel, All Time Low, and Panic at the Disco. I get a lot of influence from them. I also love listening to hardcore music; Attack Attack, The Devil Wears Prada, A Day to Remember. Good stuff. Though there is still a big part of me that loves metal.

**When was it that you knew you wanted to pursue a career in music?**

I've always wanted to do this. I love it. But it wasn't until early 2009 I actually started recording and putting music on Myspace.

**How do you come up with inspiration for your songs?**

A lot of my music is really personal. Normally I try to write about past experiences or something that's on my mind at that moment. I don't really like to write a song just because I want to. It needs meaning.

**What is the recording process like for a song?**

Well I record all my own music at my studio called Daisy Studios. I normally lay down all the guitar, and then do vocals. Lastly I'll throw in all the fun stuff like piano, strings, tambourine, and other percussion.

**Do you ever get writers block as a musician? How do you overcome it?**

Sometimes, but if I'm having trouble writing a song, I normally just stop and try again another day. I typically don't work on writing one song more than a day. That usually ends badly.

**What should fans expect at a David Lehr show?**

Just a very relaxed, chill environment. I love to talk to fans and interact. It just kinda makes it that much better.

**If you could relive one moment in your life what would it be and why?**

I can honestly say I have no regrets. I believe everything I've said and done has gotten me where I am today. I'm not saying I'm perfect,

in fact I'm saying the opposite. I welcome my mistakes. It's the best way to learn.

**What is a quote or a "life motto" that you live by?**

Be ridiculous.

**Is there a message that you'd like to spread through music?**

Just to chill out. I think a lot of stuff in life is over thought, and if we could just relax and let things go, it'd be a lot better for everyone.

**What two bands or artists would you want to play a show with? Why?**

Emery and The Rocket Summer. I feel like that would just be a fun time.

**Is there anything in 2011 that you are excited for?**

Simply put, yes. I plan on releasing at least 1 more EP by the end of the year, and I have big ideas ready for it.





# HOLY GHOST

Photo by Ruvan Wijesooriya  
Interview by Cynthia Lam

**What made you first decide that you wanted to pursue a career in music?**

We were brash and audacious teenagers. We had no idea what we were doing or getting into, and we didn't care.

**While growing up was music a big part of your life?**

The biggest. It always came before friends, school, and sports, etc. It was also always on in our houses - both of our families love and listen to music.

**What was the first instrument that you learned? Was made you want to learn that instrument first?**

Piano. My best friends Dad was a pianist and he offered me lessons. I was 6.

**Holy Ghost! has a new album set to release on April 12th. Is there a message that you'd like to spread through the album?**

Peace and love.

**What were some inspirations for songs that you had on the album?**

Oh, mostly other records! isn't that how it always is?

**While writing did you ever encounter "writers block"? How did you overcome it?**

Beer sometimes. Running sometimes. I don't know, you just keep shooting until you make a shot.

**Did you face any new challenges while writing the new album?**

**Of course, mostly due to time constraints.** We were doing a lot of dj'ing and remixing so it was a lot at once.

**What lyric or song are you most proud of writing, and why?**

"Do It Again" because it was the opposite of what we had been writing - slow, talky, no chords. And "Hold On", because it seems to have connected with a lot of people and because it was the first thing we did.

**Are there any songs on the album that you are excited to play live? Which ones?**

Honestly, I love playing them all live. Its just fun.

**You are currently on tour with Cut Copy. How it is going so far?**

It rules. We're lucky chaps.

**What should fans expect at a Holy Ghost! show? Any crazy antics?**

Not really. Sometimes I talk during songs and embarrass the band - and probably myself.

**Do you have anything planned for the summer?**

Tour tour tour...

**Do you have anything else that you'd like to say?**

We're lucky to have the band and crew we have. Thanks dudes.



**What are couple things you like most about being a part of a band from Australia?**

This probably seems weird, but I like it that our capital cities are so far apart. I love going on adventures! I also like that most cities we play in are so close to the ocean.

**If you could go back in time what is one thing you would like to change and why?**

If there was some way of going back in time and keeping Myspace alive.. that would be awesome. It was so much easier to keep people updated on shows, new music etc. on Myspace. Facebook just isn't the same. I have a feeling my answer to that question doesn't even make sense.

**What are some musicians or bands have you been listening to lately? How would you describe their music?**

Lately, I've been really into The Amity Affliction and their latest album Youngbloods. I really like the drumming, and the production is amazing!! And I always enjoy a bit of Anberlin, definitely a favourite of mine.

**What bands would you compare your music and sound to and why do you think other bands are trying to do a certain sound?**

I don't like comparing our music to other bands. Then people will have expectations. But to give you a good idea of our sound I

would say we're fun, energetic, pop-punk with the occasional ballad. Something I think everyone can enjoy!

**What does it feel like to be a part of the Top Unsigned Bands of 2010 for Purevolume?**

To think that we had only signed up to the site a few months beforehand and then were the only Australian band to make the list, along side so many amazing unsigned bands. We were stoked!!!

**What are some other bands from Australia would you recommend your fans to listen to and what is your favorite song from their band?**

Dream On, Dreamer - Ambitions is my favourite song.

**What is the day in the life with the band during a recording session?**

Because we're all so hypo and annoying, we usually only have one or two of us in the studio at a time. Which results in us spending a lot of our days building skate ramps in the car park, playing the Playstation, watching Miami Ink, and eating a hell of a lot of food!!

**What is one quote you think others should pay close attention to?**

If you have a plan B, you're not putting enough time into plan A.

**What do you think makes you different from other bands right now and why?**

So many bands these days go overboard with production and effects. We like to keep everything simple and raw, which I think makes our music a little different and easy to get into.

**What is one thing you can't live without that is not electronic, not edible and not wearable and why?**

My band. Although I guess it's kind of edible.

**What is it like to be able to be a part of a band and to be able to perform music that is spread all over the world?**

It's an amazing feeling when every day people all over the world are listening to our music. It's awesome to know that people enjoy listening to the songs that we enjoy writing, recording, and performing.

**What are some key rules about being a part of your band?**

You have to be a complete idiot. It's pretty easy rules to work with.

**Any last words you want to add and shout outs to anyone or fans?**

Thank you to anyone who is listening to our tunes!



# ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Interview by Bianca Delicata

## **Congratulations on the signing of Rookie Of The Year to IBOT Records! How was this experience?**

Well at the moment I'm getting to release my other band's record so I'm just doing demos in smaller studios to make sure I have the right songs for this next Rookie of the Year record!

## **So far, what has been your most memorable show?**

I played the House of Blues in Vegas sold out and won a good 250 bucks at Roulette Right before going on!

## **Being the remaining member of the band, do you ever feel the weight on your shoulders overwhelming for one person?**

Sometimes yes. I mean I wrote the first two records alone. pretty much. So it's nice to kinda go back to that and write more from a personal view then relying on others to write good stuff.

## **What is your favourite song to play live?**

### **Why is this?**

I enjoy playing "Slow Down" or "Hey Lauren" or "turn the page" live because the kids sing along and it's just a good time.

## **Are you currently writing for the next record?**

Yes! Many demo's have been written. So excited!

## **What in your opinion is the best social networking site to keep in touch with fans?**

Facebook! (<http://facebook.com/rookieoftheyear>)

## **Has the local music scene in Fayetteville, NC influenced you in any way?**

Kinda. It was hard breaking out of the Fayetteville, NC scene. Kids only listen to slipknot and music that was popular years

ago, it's nice to see Rookie can fill up a room still in Fayetteville.

## **What has been Rookie Of The Year's biggest accomplishment?**

Selling over 80,000 CD's is pretty cool to think about. Very happy that fans take Rookie to heart.

## **What can fans expect from Rookie Of The Year in 2011?**

I'm hoping to get the record out by the end of 2011!

## **Is there anything else that you'd like to say to our readers?**

The Most Beautiful is out on Itunes right now! Make sure you pick it up and support! (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/the-most-beautiful/id372158137>)





# THE RADIO DRIVE BY

Interview by Cynthia Lam



## Who would you say are your biggest influences?

Our biggest influences are Mayday Parade, Yellowcard, Cartel, old All Time Low and new All Time Low, Taking Back Sunday, bands like that.

## What first sparked your interest in music?

My mom, she's the music professor at a college. My dad tunes pipe organs and I've been around music my entire life. My sister grew up playing the violin so I had to go to all her concerts. I guess I've been around it so much that it grew on me and now it's the biggest part of my life.

## Why did you choose to play the instrument that you do?

I'm the singer, and I sing because I love to sing. I sing everywhere I go. I try to

have a beautiful voice but singing is what I do, I take it everywhere and I do it full time.

## Is there a message that you'd like to spread through music?

I guess it's to have fun, that's what we want to do. Live the way you want to live. Have the best time of your life you can, do what you want to do, and don't let anything stop you.

## Do you aim for a specific genre or group while writing music?

We just write songs. I think we just write however we want to write it.

## If you could do a collaboration song with anyone who would it be?

It would definitely be Yellowcard.

## How would you describe your live shows?

We're having the best time of our life and we're on stage, being part of the bands is one of the greatest things that I've ever done, so when we get up on stage, that's exactly what we want to do. Yes, we want to record music and everything but the reason that we're in a band is so that we can share that music with other people face to face. We want to get out there and play as many live shows as we can. That's what we're trying to do. The energy and the emotion that comes out of the show is what we bring to our audience.

## What plans do you have for 2011?

We want to graduate high school, that's probably our first goal, we want to get out, go on tour, and play as many shows as we can.

Interview & Photo by Imani Givertz

# FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS

As traffic was bumper to bumper I was beginning to think that this interview wasn't going to happen. I prayed to the Traffic Gods that somehow it would light up a bit so we could all get to the venue in time for a six o'clock interview with the Texas native band Forever The Sickest Kids.

The sky was finally turning a light shade of purple and the traffic let up enough for me to meet up with Kyle Burns (Drummer) and Marc Stewart (Guitarist) outside of The Culture Room in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We stood around joking about the hot weather and how it wasn't that different from their home in North Richard Hills, Texas. We laughed about how Kyle loved Miami and how he wanted to go there after their set ended tonight.

With "The Spring Break Your Heart Tour" being their first headlining tour with some great bands such as Breathe Carolina, Before Their Eyes, We Are The In Crowd, and This Century (Select Dates) they were super excited for the rest of their journey and what was coming up tour wise after this run was over. "We're going on The Zumiez Couch Tour during the summer, with Anarbor" said Marc, "Oh, and you might be seeing us at some

Simon Malls, doing some acoustic sets..." Kyle said pausing and then looking at me with huge eyes, "FOR FREE! We're in an economy crisis guys- Trying to help out!" Which just goes to show just how much these guys love their fans; doing some free sets to make sure that everyone gets to hear their amazing talents live.

When asked about what to expect for their set and upcoming shows Kyle and Marc said that you can expect, "Other than music, lots of good energy and more for your eyes and less for your ears." I know that I speak for anyone who has seen their set that they weren't kidding about the good energy and great music. I couldn't stop smiling watching them perform. And there was an equal amount for your eyes and your ears! "We're even playing two new songs from our new Self-Titled record (Forever The Sickest Kids) during our set! But that's all you can know because the rest is a secret!" Kyle told me.

We talked some more about their new Album and how they feel about the "feel" of the new album. "It's a different type of album that we feel out of everything we've done so far that this album represents us as a band and that's why it's our self-titled." Marc said all

smiles obviously proud of the new album and what's to come from it. "We're trying to get our new Single 'CrossRoads' out there and on the radio," Marc and Kyle said as their message to the Fans, "So call in to your local radio stations and request CROSSROADS off of our self-titled album Forever The Sickest Kids! Help get the song out there!"

And as the last words before the show to the fans were a very humble set of 'thank you's' on behalf of the whole band. Be sure to pick up the Self-Titled Album Forever The Sickest Kids on iTunes "For cheap!" in the words of FTSK's very own Kyle and Marc.

You can check out FTSK online too by going to [www.foreverthesickestkids.com](http://www.foreverthesickestkids.com) and [www.myspace.com/foreverthesickestkids](http://www.myspace.com/foreverthesickestkids) Don't forget to follow them on twitter either; <http://twitter.com/OFFICIALFTSK>

Also, don't forget to call into your local radio stations and request the single "Crossroads" and help this very deserving band get out there some more!



# The Gamechangers Tour

The Vogue Theatre, Vancouver, BC



In the past few years, there have been several bands which have influenced me in one way or another. This list of bands also included the ones who I wanted to see live, ones who were a blast to see live, and ones that had music that meant a lot to me. When four of the bands on the list got rumored to be touring together this spring, it seemed too good to be true. I still remember waking up in a hotel in California, going onto my laptop and seeing the tour and the dates confirmed. It was too good to be true, and looking at the stops, I realized that the Vancouver, BC date was during my spring break, which meant I'd be able to make it out to the show from Edmonton.

I arrived to downtown Vancouver at about noon, and already there were a lot of fans lined up, eager for the show that was to be held later that night. Fast forward a couple more hours, when the line reached all the way down the street, fans were lined up with excited smiles on their face as many pedestrians stopped and asked what was going on later that night.

As soon as we got in the venue and faced the stage, the energy and anticipation of the crowd started to build up. With the mario theme song playing minutes before Pierce The Veil was set to go on, everyone was hoping for the night to start already.

Pierce The Veil put on a fantastic set, and as always it was filled with energy. They really know how to get the crowd involved and the songs that they chose to play for this tour's set were perfect. Starting off with a cover of Black And Yellow, the crowd was quickly chanting the song and cheering as the band appeared on stage (and as for Vic Fuentes, who seemed to appear out of nowhere). They also played "Bulletproof Love" on this tour, which was a blast to hear live. They still bring the energetic and phenomenal live show that got me into them in 2009.

We Came As Romans was on next and they definitely put on a great live show. The last time I saw them was in October of 2010, and they were fantastic. I knew that they wouldn't disappoint this time around, and I was right. The crowd was going crazy at that point and it was such a great sight to see everyone singing along the words.

Bring Me The Horizon is known for their indescribable live shows. They have so much energy and their music really gets the crowd pumped up and moving. The crowd quickly formed into a huge pit despite the seats that were in the venue. Hearing songs from the new album live was amazing, but the songs that stuck out from the rest was "Alligator Blood". Hearing "Alligator Blood" live was an amazing experience, and there's no words that I can think of that will describe the feeling of hearing the whole crowd chanting the lyrics.

As the curtain dropped before A Day To Remember was to go on, the crowd was a mess of anticipation. Every seat and available space was filled, and when the band finally walked on stage, the crowd quickly exploded into a big pit. They performed an amazing set, filled with songs from the new album as well as old favorites. The one song that stuck out to me from the whole night was "All Signs Point To Lauderdale". I still remember hearing their album, listening to that song and being blown away by the lyrics and how beautiful and correct they seemed to be in regards to my thoughts. Hearing it live and singing along at the top of my lungs is one moment I will never forget.

In overall, the Gamechangers tour had the best lineup that I've ever heard of and is a night that I will definitely not forget. With all of the bands bringing a great live show and the crowd going wild despite the seats, it's a tour that happens once in a blue moon. April 1st, 2011 is definitely a day I will never forget, and I think that I can say that this tour will be remembered **25** by all who have attended.

## Reckless and Rentless Tour



Throughout the month of March, I heard a lot of talk from my friends and people at school about the Reckless and Rentless tour. With a good, solid line-up and variety of bands, the tour had a little something for everyone.

As I walked in the venue the night of the show, the first band Lower Than Atlantis was already playing. They had a nice, loud sound and as I made my way through the crowd there was a good pit going on already. It's a very rare sight to see a pit form during the first band, but it also showed that the night was going to be a good one.

Evergreen Terrace, Miss May I, Chiodos and Emmure all put on great sets which really got the crowd involved. One memorable moment was definitely when Levi Benton from Miss May I called for the crowd to crowd surf. Shortly after he did there was an explosion of crowd surfers, and it seemed to be the same twenty kids who were surfing over and over.

Asking Alexandria started off their set strong and the crowd quickly got involved jumping up and down, opening the pit, and crowd surfing. With a very loud sound and a good live presence, they brought good vibes to the whole crowd.

Overall, this show was definitely a show that the Edmonton music scene needed.

# Aaron Gillespie Anthem Song

By Azaria Podplesky



Aaron Gillespie is not new to the music scene. As the former drummer and clean vocalist for Underoath and the current singer and guitarist for The Almost, Gillespie has built a reputation as one of this generation's most talented musicians. For his first solo effort, Gillespie has moved from the veiled Christian messages of Underoath and The Almost to worship songs, all focused on his relationship with God.

Album opener "Hosanna" is an upbeat song with the same acoustic sound that The Almost fans have grown accustomed to. "Washed Up" continues with sweeping pianos that peak into a song about the power of God and his ability to wash his followers clean.

"I Will Worship You" is one of the album's standout tracks, mainly because of the passion behind Gillespie's voice. This song is like a letter from Gillespie to God, promising to worship Him. Gillespie's love for his God can be felt through the head phones.

Though Gillespie's voice and musical abilities shine through on this album, his song writing skills are lacking just a bit, as I believe the veiled messages of Underoath and The Almost were more powerful. While this album is very Christian-oriented, fans of any or no religious affiliation can identify with the themes of hope and love in these songs.



By Azaria Podplesky

## Dance Gavin Dance

### *Downtown Battle Mountain II*

Though they are only entering their sixth year together, Dance Gavin Dance has experienced more drama than bands three times their age. After countless line-up changes, interpersonal conflict, drugs, rehabilitation and scandals (anyone need a MacBook?), it's a wonder they're still together. Despite all of the drama, Dance Gavin Dance has managed to release their fourth studio album, *Downtown Battle Mountain II*, a continuation of the Sacramento-based bands' debut album, *Downtown Battle Mountain*.

Featuring original members Jonny Craig, Jon Mess and Eric Lodge, *Downtown Battle Mountain II* begins with "Spooks," and Craig's signature smooth vocals. Mess breaks in with a scream that makes it very clear that Dance Gavin Dance is back in a big way. A riff heavy second half makes this song an instant favorite.

"Heat Seeking Ghost Of Sex" is another one of the album's standouts with all five members playing and/or singing their hearts out. Will Swan and Lodge's riffs combined with Matt Mingus' drumming create a memorable song that you can't help but move to.

While Craig's soulful vocals are featured on the entire album, "Blue Dream" is where they really shine. The R&B groove he gives the song is not heard often and is one of the things that sets Dance Gavin Dance apart from other bands using the sing-scream formula.

Lineup changes, drugs and MacBook scams or not, Dance Gavin Dance have managed to create an album that will not soon be matched in creativeness and variety of sound.



## Me & This Army *Souls*

By Bianca Delicata



These three friends have been together since they shared the common hobby of skateboarding as children. The newly released *Souls EP* by the three-piece band, Me and This Army has definitely given the music industry a clean slate to start fresh on. The band hails from Baltimore, Maryland grabbing the attention with their Billie Holiday and Local Natives-inspired songs.

The EP features four soul-deriving tracks. "Hurts You Bad" embraces the front-woman Courtney's vocals, conveying strong emotion into the album. "So" begins with a slow piano intro, quickly kicking off with the outgoing and expressive lyrics and drumming. The combination of these upbeat melodies is what makes the track the epitome of a summer song. "F(r)iends" also incorporates a more eerie feeling to the album. The last song to be analyzed is "Apple Eye". The song creates an unnatural mood compared to the other tracks, because it's not as upbeat and inspiring.

Overall, The *Souls EP* is the perfect way to start off your summer—kicking back with your friends, and enjoying life day-by-day. Hopefully the band shall continue with their indie alternative inspirations. The influences are clearly leading them in a positive direction, stirring away from the undesirable aspects of the music industry.



# Any comments? Feedback?

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And also to all of you who are reading this!

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