

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #22



THE SEASON PREMIERE

I Anthem, Hit The Lights
The Vinyls, Fighting The Influence

+ *more*

Hey! If you are a regular reader and visitor to our site, you may have noticed that something has changed! Just something minor, perhaps? Nope! Recently we launched our new website, and now we are hosted by the lovely Dreamhost and Wordpress. Mind you, it was a very frustrating battle trying to get it up. But here are are, everything is running smoothly, and we are doing great!

For any of you wondering about our tumblr, it is still up over at <http://stitchedsound.tumblr.com>, yes we are going to be updating it, but it will be a link to the original article/post on our new website. Sounds great?

I really hope you guys enjoy what's in this issue, it was chaotic trying to get it all together, with myself leaving for California at the end of July and all. I think we pulled together a pretty awesome issue though and I hope you do too.

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
cynthialam@stitchedsound.com

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 3 | Hit The Lights | 16 | This Is Our Storyline |
| 5 | Sweatshirt Weather | 17 | Vendetta Skies |
| 7 | Fighting The Influence | 18 | Blind Witness |
| 8 | Brighter Brightest | 19 | Drowning Youth |
| 9 | The Season Premiere | 20 | I Anthem |
| 11 | The Mighty Fine | 21 | Inward Eye |
| 13 | Lock Up | 22 | BTL with Matt Vogel |
| 14 | My Dying Bride | 23 | Reviews |
| 15 | Edward O'Neil | | |

HIT THE LIGHTS

Interview with Nick Thompson
Interview by Bianca Delicata

I understand that you've entered the studio to start on your third record not too long ago. Was there a different direction that you aim for in the new record?

Yes, definitely. The genre that we've been a part of for the last few years has been overdone and just run into the ground. We felt to stay relevant as a band and as musicians we needed to push ourselves and make songs that are still very much HTL, but push the boundaries of what our band is known for. We're growing, I think our fans are too. Nobody wants the same record over and over again.

You haven't returned to the studio since your Coast To Coast EP. What was one thing you missed most about being in the studio, in the time that you weren't?

We've always been a band that loves to be on the road. We took time off the road this past year to write the record and that's what sucked the most for me. I missed playing shows and hanging with friends, seeing new places and just being busy. As far as this

record goes, we just wanted to write the best songs we could, record with a producer we felt could take us to that next level, and get back on the road. As far as missing anything in the studio, the only real thing I enjoy is hearing that song come together, seeing songs take shape or transform completely from something it was before. That's always fun, but yeah, get me on the road, I live in OHIO - I wanna get on that stage and sweat with people. I mean that in the most erotic way possible.

What's one theme that's the most present in your songs?

In most of our past material I always think that there's a certain bite or edge in a song. Something a little darker that prevails through the pop elements we play. Whether it be in the lyrics or the riffs, I think there's always something a bit edgier. In the new material all the songs are a lot darker in general. We have songs that will be very atmospheric and we have songs that are very heavy. Not in the sense of double bass

and screaming - but heavy in a big, open epic sense of the word. We're going for epic. It's a very logical step for us.

I presume that the tracks you collaborated on with Ryan Key of Yellowcard and Kenny Vasoli of The Starting Line will be on the new record, yes? Can you tell us a little about them?

We actually got the opportunity to write with a few different people that we loved and respected. Ryan and Kenny were definitely two of them that we had a blast with. As far as songs being released, we wrote SO many songs for this record trying to find the next step for this band and, while it was fun writing with those people, a lot of those songs didn't hit on the vibe and mood we were going for. You may hear the song we wrote with Ryan called "Faster Now" on the new record, besides that, I'm not sure if the others will see the light of day. Sorry!



What was the first instrument that you picked up? What was the first song that you learned?

The first instrument I picked up was the guitar. I wanted a new pair of skates for my birthday and my fucking parents had the nerve to buy me an acoustic guitar. I was like "Why the fuck did you get me a guitar? The ONLY thing I even mentioned was skates." And they were all like "You love music, you're going to do this, we got you lessons." Fast forward to a few years later and I dropped out of college to tour in a pop-punk band and they were just banging their heads on any solid surface they could find. I owe all my success to my parents pushing me into it, it all worked out and I'm a better person for it. Thanks Mom and Dad! The first song I learned was "Come As You Are" by Nirvana. Pretty standard stuff.

I understand that you had some label issues and that's partially why the new record was delayed. Are all issues resolved?

The issues are all resolved now. It was a very, VERY frustrating time for our band. Coming off of a label like Triple Crown Records, where Fred is a very artist friendly

label head who lets the bands do what they want to do, and then going into this major label environment where you are compared with every artist that is doing well on the radio - it's easy to lose sight of who you are and what you do. We got into the all-to-common situation of being told "keep writing and be yourself, but here's a ton of bands doing well at radio that you should probably think about", and we ended up just trying to write songs to try to appease whoever can give us the green-light for the record. We were stuck for awhile, writing songs no one was happy with, just trying to get a record started. Thankfully some new people came into the picture and we were able to leave. We found a label that got what we were trying to do with the new songs and now we get to be in the studio with some amazing producers making music that we want to.

While starting out the band, what goals did you have in mind? Have you accomplished them yet?

Hit The Lights started out as a bunch of Ohio kids that just wanted to get out of the farmland and play some VFW shows to a hundred kids every night. We have more

than accomplished what we set out to do and we'll take this as far as it needs to go. It's been an incredible ride that has shaped us as people, allowed us to see different sides of the world and made us really happy. I'm looking forward to many, many more great years.

If you could have given yourself one piece of advice before stepping into the music industry what would it be and why?

Realize what you can do yourself without the help of labels/management/booking agents and do as much of that by yourself as you can. The internet is an incredible tool that I feel is just starting to truly be tapped for self exposure. Use it and work harder than everyone else.

Can fans expect some new material by fall 2011?

Fuck yeah, they can!



Interview with Daniel
Interview by Cynthia Lam

SWEATSHIRT WEATHER

Would you say that Sweatshirt Weather has changed quite a bit since the formation in 2007?

Definitely. When we first started, it was just Chris and myself sending each other song ideas back and forth on the internet, since I was in Florida and he was in Indiana at the time. In 2009, I was working at a recording studio in LA and decided to head back home to Indiana to make the band my priority. We then recruited some friends to form a full band, but we've gone through several lineup changes including Nate switching from keyboards to bass, and finally at drums, where he'll stay. Also, when we wrote our first EP, we were trying to stay away from using electric guitars a lot in our music and using more synths, but since then, so many bands have worn out the synth sound that it got us a little sick of it ourselves.

When the band first started, did you have any goals in mind? Have you accomplished any of these?

At first, it was just something fun and different to do. Chris and I were both at college in different states and always enjoyed making music together. We never really thought we'd play any of these songs live. We just wanted

to create something different from the standard four-piece pop rock bands. But as we gathered interest from people, we thought maybe this could be bigger than what we ever intended. While we've been able to do some things that we always wanted to do with a band, if it all ended today, I'd feel a little disappointed that we never got to where I wanted us to be. We've had a lot of setbacks and disappointments along the way, but we keep pushing through. I guess that's where we got the title "Getting By" for our last EP.

Can you tell us what the recording process for Sweatshirt Weather is like?

We usually start with having the song structured out in the music software Reason. It consists of piano, strings, organ, etc and we'll import that into Pro Tools. Sometimes we'll have a scratch track of vocals and/or guitar as a guide, too. Nate will then lay down the drum tracks. Depending on the producer, we'll then move on to bass or guitars. A lot of the demos we wrote didn't include electric guitar, so those parts are usually written in the studio. Chad will then shred the bass, as he usually puts headphones on and listens to the demo for hours on repeat, writing sick bass parts for it. I think bass is one of those instruments that is easily overlooked in songs,

but having great bass lines can really add a lot to a song. After all this is done, we'll track vocals and then do harmonies over that.

As a band, do you ever get into arguments while writing a song?

Not too often. If we do, it's usually about something minor. If someone really feels more strongly about it than the rest of us, we'll go with it or we'll just vote on it and if we tie, we have the producer be the tie-breaker. But usually we can all get on the same page of what direction we want a song to take.

What is your favourite song that you've written, and what is it about?

Personally, I'd have to say Fall and 106. I spent so many hours in pre-production with our producer tweaking notes, changing chords, fixing the structure, etc etc. It came such a long way from the demo form, so when I heard the final mix, I was blown away. I wrote the verse lyrics when I was in a long-distance relationship and I came back home after we broke up and went out to this place where we used to hang out and wrote the lyrics for the bridge. It's a song about trying to hold on to what's left, whether it's memories or hope.

You released a new EP called *Getting By* last month. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten so far?

Yeah, for the most part, it's been great. It's obviously a step forward as far as sound is concerned, so hopefully people embrace it. We had a lot of issues to overcome in releasing this and it took a really long time to get done. It's hard when you have no backing from a label and very little money. People take longer to do what they need to do for you because they don't have a label calling, yelling at them and being the bad cop. You've got no pull or bargaining power as a virtually unknown band, so you get jerked around a little. But we're really glad to have it released and to give our fans that have stuck with us new music and hopefully gain some more followers in the process.

If you could play a show with any bands who would they be and why?

Blink-182 - they got me into music. They were the reason I picked up a guitar. Also, Something Corporate - Leaving Through The Window has always been one of my

favorite albums and everything Andrew McMahon does is genius. Plus, Augustana. They are so incredible live. Such a treat.

Turning back time three years ago, would you expect to be where you are now?

Definitely not. The night I met our manager for the first time in LA, I had an interview for a studio job the next day. I almost told him not to bother with us because we both had different priorities at the time, but I didn't. Music recording is what I went to school for, so when I moved out to LA, I thought that's where I'd stay, at least for several years. Let's just say I never thought I'd end up back in Indy playing in a band again, let alone working with producers I love and releasing music and having fans that actually care about words I write down and notes that we play.

What advice would you give to young musicians who would like to start a band?

It's hard work. There are way easier ways to try and make a living out there, so only

do this if you have a passion for music and truly love doing it. Stay true to yourself. And don't use pitch correction live.

Is there a message that you are trying to send through music?

Not really. Each song pertains to its own situation. I hope people can adapt them to their own situations. The lyrics are really important to me, though. I can recall the mindset I was in when I wrote them or the situation it is about every time I play the songs. It helps keep playing shows from getting mundane.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks for your time and please check us out and tell your friends about us!





Interview by Cynthia Lam

FIGHTING THE INFLUENCE

How did Fighting The Influence come to be? (How did you meet the other members, and decide to start a band)?

It all started because Sandro and Pedro are the second floor tenants to Josh's grandmother. Josh was helping move something upstairs one afternoon and they all met and after chatting a bit, realized they all played music. Sandro and Pedro had already been jamming together and brought Josh into their project, solidifying it. After that, we went solid for a while with some other members until a few left (on good terms). That's when we met Andrew through his girlfriend at the time (now his wife) and we've been going strong since then. We started the band as a way to play music for our friends and as a ministry to reach people with original music. God has really expanded it since then.

Since you released your self-titled in 2008 until now, would you say that as a musician you have grown? How?

Absolutely! Our styles and musical influences have certainly changed and developed as we've grown up as individuals and as a band. We would hope to think we have gotten better musically and lyrically as we continue to learn and develop our craft over time. Our newest album "Come Alive" is our best and most-up to-date representation of both our live sound and lyrical message.

What makes you guys different from other bands in the industry?

We'd like to think that what sets us apart from most other bands are our hearts. The reason why we do what we do is not for our own gain, but rather for the glory of God. Everything else about us are just details in comparison to the greater purpose we hold ourselves to as Christians.

Is there a message that you are trying to send through music?

Our lyrics reflect our message, or rather God's message and what we believe it to be. This world is searching for hope and purpose, the only remedy is Jesus Christ.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

Our lyrical inspiration is usually derived from our own personal experiences, opinions on various topics, and people we come in contact with. For example the song "bottles" presents a person struggling to cope with their loneliness, and instead of seeking God, the turn to other means of fulfillment. The line "I never want to feel this way again, standing alone with empty bottles as my friends" is something that anyone who has dealt with a similar situation can identify with and relate to. Musically, we all bring our own individual influences to the table. That blend of styles is what creates our sound, and brings a unique vibe to our music.

Can you tell us how a Fighting The Influence song is formed?

Most of our songs with the exception of a few start with a melody. From there, we create a chord progression to accompany the melody, and finally add lyrics to fit with the already built musical foundation to the song. Some songs are formed outside of that format. In those cases we attempt to build a melody around lyrics that we've written first.

Which do you prefer - recording or playing shows?

That's a tough question, both facets are very different and at the same time are intertwined. The studio is a place where we can solidify creativity in the music we want to produce, where as live shows are all about creating an

experience for those watching and listening. We love both aspects and enjoy each one in different ways.

What should fans expect at a Fighting The Influence show?

We believe that shows should not only be enjoyable, but personal. We want everyone to leave with an experience that keeps them connected to us through music as well as on a more personal/deeper level. Our desire is to build a relationship with our fans so that they can continue to support us, and in turn we can continue giving back through our music.

If you could get rid of anything that kids do at shows, what would it be and why?

We would get rid of the stereotypes that kids can tend to put on us for being a "Christian band". In a perfect world, everyone would be open-minded to the music, regardless of their personal feelings about our beliefs.

Is there a word of advice you would like to leave our readers?

The best advice we could ever give anyone is to seek God in all things, and never give up hope.

What does the future hold for Fighting The Influence?

Only God knows, but as far as we're concerned, we're in this for the long haul, and we're not stopping anytime soon!

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thank you for listening and for believing in what we're doing. Without the support of all those who follow us, we wouldn't be where we are.

BRIGHTER BRIGHTEST

Interview by Bianca Delicata

ISSUE 22

STITCHED SOUND



I understand that BB was originally from Aurora, Canada but as recently relocated to Toronto, Canada? Have you visited any of the tour sites in Toronto?

Well Aurora definitely is a part of the GTA, so as a kid I always went to Canada's Wonderland every summer with my family. And places like the ROM on field trips as a kid. If anything, since moving to Toronto we haven't gone to those places enough! Haha.

Coming from the Toronto area, there are many bands and artists struggling to become relevant to "the scene". What distinguishes your band from others?

Well this "scene" has been a constantly changing beast for many years. These days a lot of bands seem to pop out of no where onto the radio or stations like MuchMusic, but I think with us, the difference is we've all been playing in bands in the scene for years, so the scene knows who we are, we've worked hard from the bottom up!

Do you aim towards a specific age group when writing your music?

When writing our music, we always just write what makes us happy. We draw influences from all decades of music, from bands like Def Leppard to Third Eye Blind to Blink 182 so I think the product of those

influences helps us appeal to multiple age groups.

You recorded your debut full-length album, Right for Me, in December and will be releasing it on August 9th. Why has it taken so long to release your album?

Well making an album is definitely a process, from the first day of preproduction to the last day of mastering, a lot goes down. In terms of releasing it, we wanted to release it the best way possible, going through every avenue we can. We are lucky to have all cannons firing at the moment, with MuchMusic playing our video, the new series Discovered premiering August 16th, and a tour across the country with our new record. The timing couldn't be better!

Do you think the outcome of the album is worth waiting for?

I think anybody putting everything they have into anything will tell you that the final product is worth waiting for.

Have you participated in any large tours yet? If so, how far have you traveled from Toronto?

We've gone on two national tours, one with non-for-profit organization Skate4Cancer, and the other with now label-mates Living

With Lions. Our upcoming CD release tour will take us our furthest west, with our first ever show in British Columbia (August 27th in Vancouver at Tom Lee Music Hall).

When will the music video for "Everyday" will be released? Is there a special story line to the video?

It's been airing on Much Music for a few weeks now, and is also viewable on our YouTube www.youtube.com/brighterbrightest. Its a fun video that tells the story of three relationships ending.

Do you have a guilty pleasure music wise? Who is it?

I wear my tastes in all things on my sleeve, so there is definitely no guilt in what I listen to. I love The Jonas Brothers.

What's next for Brighter Brightest?

New album "Right For Me" out August 9th. Cross Canada tour starts August 9th, see all tour dates at www.weareblackbox.com/tour. Video for "Everyday" out on MuchMusic now! Request it @MuchMusic on twitter. New documentary series, featuring Brighter Brightest airs August 16th 10pm on Much Music.

THE SEASON PREMIERE

Interview by Cynthia Lam



What makes The Season Premiere different from other bands that you may be compared to?

We all feel that we're playing music not just because we love it, but because we were meant to do it and that we're part of a bigger plan than we can even explain. We are inspired by everything and everyone. We are inspired and driven to influence our audience in a positive way and hope to express all the simple and amazing joys of life through our songs and lyrics.

Who were your inspirations when you first started playing music and are they still the same now?

We take inspiration from anything and everything. We all have come from different musical back grounds. However, we are all early to mid 90s rock lovers at heart.

Some of our biggest influences are bands like Third Eye Blind, Foo Fighters, Jimmy Eat World and the list continues. Thought we acquire new inspiration almost everyday, those are our roots and the artist we look up to most and they will never be forgotten. If you listen closely to our music you can definitely hear similarities to each artist listed above in our songs.

How important is it for you to keep in touch with your fans? Why is this?

Our fans are absolutely everything to us. We really pride ourselves on getting to know our fans on an extremely personal level. We encourage them to add us on our personal Facebooks, Twitters, everything. We genuinely care for them and it's amazing to get to know the people who support the lifestyle you are leading. In turn, it's great to hear what their passions are and get to support them back.



What has been the biggest challenge that you've had to face as a band music wise? How did you overcome it?

Probably the fact that we come from an extremely successful and prospering music scene. Though the competition is a plenty, every band that has done well, and is doing well at the moment we are all extremely good friends with. In a sense, the music community here is extremely united and we value our friendships and relationships with all the amazing bands and musicians that we are lucky to call our close friends. Overall, we all help each other and want to see each other succeed. We've even recently discussed how awesome an Arizona tour would be. Consisting of The Maine, Anarbor, This Century, Austin Gibbs, The Summer Set, My Girl Friday and our band. It would be like touring with family, hopefully one day this idea can be put into action.

To what extent is the internet a useful tool in helping the growth of The Season Premiere?

Social networks and the internet are solely responsible for where we are today. It's given us an opportunity to get to know our listeners on a more personal level than we ever thought possible. The internet has endless possibilities, and we are excited to see how much our social networks will grow in the near future.

If you could turn back time and make music in any decade when would it be and why?

90s. More accurately, early 90s. Touring with bands like Third Eye Blind, Dishwalla, Smashing Pumpkins, & Matchbox 20 would be a dream come true for us. The 90s is our favorite because it displayed such real and raw emotion in each and every song. Music was produced so organically back then, and in our opinion, some of the best sounding recordings came from that time period.

Do you have any tips for kids who would like to pursue a career as a musician or in the music industry?

Just play the music you love and write about what really moves you. Staying true to yourself is all any young artist needs. The rest will follow. Also, don't get intimidated. The only way to do well in this industry is to persevere.

What should fans expect at a The Season Premiere show?

A high energy and passionate set. We give our audience tons of ways to interact and feel that they are part of what we are doing. Because at the end of the day, we are doing it all for them. There is never a dull moment in our set. We pride ourselves on being extremely theatrical and fun so that the crowd is never bored.

Do any of you have hidden talents that fans and readers may find shocking?

Our bassist, Terrence is a fantastic photographer. In fact, he takes every single once of our promotional shots and takes all the pictures for our album art ect. Our guitarist, Travis is an extremely talented designer and handles all of our design work and merchandise designs. Our singer, Justin knows the ins and outs of how to run a business and manages our band. At the end of the day people would be shocked to know that we don't hire any outside help when it comes to our band. We are a one stop shop and do absolutely everything ourselves. We truly believe it makes us closer as a band and brings us closer to our music.

What is your favourite thing about living in Arizona?

We love the music community. So many of our best friends are in bands from here and are all doing so well. It makes things so much easier when you have a community of talented musicians that support each other every step of the way in each others careers. We are truly blessed to be friends with bands such as Anarbor, The Maine, The Summer Set, This

Century, Austin Gibbs, My Girl Friday & Radio Drive By. We love each one of the bands to death and wish them all the best of luck.

If you could relocate to anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

We all decided we would move to Australia. Run with Koalas, and eat tons of Vegamite. Just kidding, haha. But really, we would love to move to Australia and play music there. Its a beautiful country and we have so many fans out there that we would love to play for.

What are some absurd band names that you've heard of?

Insane Clown Posse, Pony Pony Run Run, Atreyu, Mr.Mister, WHAM!, Chumbawamba, Staind, Limp Bizkit. Those are all pretty bad and interesting ones. Haha.

What should we expect from The Season Premiere during the rest of 2011?

Our debut 5 song EP "For All The Lovers" will be released August 23rd! We are super excited about how amazing the songs turned out and can't wait to share our hard with all of you. The first taste of the EP the public will get is when we release our music video for our single "Anything But Love" on August 16th! Get ready people...

Thank you so much for this opportunity! Is there anything I missed, or anything you'd like to add?

We cant believe all the love and support all of our fans have given us thus far. We would be absolutely nothing without you. You really are the backbone of this band and are in every way our inspiration. At the end of the day our music isn't going to change the world necessarily, but we do hope to offer each of you a chance to escape whatever it is that your facing at the moment. We love and adore each and every one of you and only hope to have the opportunity to meet you all on the road in the near future. *Stay true, stay you.*



Interview by Cynthia Lam

THE MIGHTY FINE

What makes The Mighty Fine different from other bands in the industry?

To say we're doing something completely different or new from anyone else in the music industry would be quite the stretch of truth. But I am proud to say that this band definitely zoned in on a certain niche of musical styling's. People have compared our newest record, *In Revival*, to the likings of Against Me!, Hot Water Music, and Alkaline Trio which is definitely a flattering thing to hear. All of those bands are staples in the punk community. Though they may only be a few of our many influences, I definitely hear a certain raw energy matched with catchy melodies that I'd like to think is fairly unique.

Since the band first started, would you say you have grown musically?

When we started this band about 3 1/2 years ago, we had the vision to create a Dropkick Murphy's style folk-punk band, minus the Irish influence. It didn't take long to realize that we couldn't fully grow and explore our talents playing that music. That's why in our last record, *Bad Timing For Everything*, there's quite the mix of punk, indie, and alternative influence. We wrote that record knowing that no 2 songs were alike. After touring and getting the vibe from fans, we naturally came to the conclusion that we'd collectively wanted to play punk rock, and make a more focused punk rock record.

What made you decide to be in a band and play music?

Chris "K2"- Ever since I was a kid I've always listened to music and have been driven to be like my favorite bands. By the time I was in Jr. High I was finally able to put together a band and pursue my dreams. Since my first show I've been driven to succeed at any cost!

Brook- I was 14 and just getting into alternative music, probably with the help of MTV (back when they showed music videos at least half the time). I fell in love with bands like Blink 182, NOFX, Rancid, etc so once I started to learn how to play guitar, I thought it was only natural to get a band together and write crappy music together. Through the years I've played in several different bands with some of my best friends. The Mighty Fine was something particularly special for me though, because it was the first time I was taking the reins on singing.

Who was the most influential band to you, and why?

Chris "K2"- There is defiantly no way I could pick just one band! I have taking influence from so many drummers and had so many bands motivate me that to pick just one would be nearly impossible. I'll go with Red Hot Chili Peppers because out of all music I've listened to, they have probably been consistently on mix tapes, or playlist but really the list is endless.

Brook- Oddly enough, my most influential band of the past 10 years is actually Thrice. They're one of my favorite bands and though they don't play a huge influence on our band, they definitely helped shape my musical endeavors in more ways than I can describe. Plus, it's bitchin' to see how much that band has evolved throughout their tenure as a band.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Chris "K2"- A musician! I used to watch concerts from some of the greatest bands and always wanted to be on stage like them.
Mikey- A math teacher because I like helping people and making a difference.
Brook- I always wanted to be a normal person, still can't seem to get that one down.

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

A lot of the lyrics deal with turning crappy situations into something positive. We all have our low points, and we should never lose perspective on all the awesome people, blessings, and opportunities that surround us. We also hope to inspire more people to get involved in their local scene and support all the bands that they love!

I understand that you guys are currently/have recorded a new album this spring. What was the process like?

Yeah, we just finished our record. It was one of the greatest musical experiences of this band's life. After spending most of last Fall & Winter writing new songs, we decided to try a different approach to recording a record. Our good friend Nolan Perry agreed to engineer our record at our practice space. With some help, we were able to transform the house we practice at into a recording studio. Chris Scott and Chris Lintner assisted Nolan in the engineering helping sound-treat the house, recommend microphone options/positioning, etc. Our control room was in the garage! Some great people loaned us some awesome additional equipment that made the whole thing possible. My favorite thing about recording this way was that we could take our time. The pressure of deadlines and being in the studio can be quite daunting plus we didn't have to take much time off work. Sometimes some of us would be at work while others were tracking.

In your opinion, what is the most difficult thing about writing and recording?

For writing, I think it's just getting started. Always seems like it takes writing a couple songs before we really get into the groove of writing together. If we ran into any writer's block, we found that giving that song or that part a break and coming back to it helps, even if it's months later. As far as recording goes, I'd say the most difficult thing is being patient. As soon as you start recording, it's like you're ready for the damn thing to be done so you can hear all your hard work. We managed to do pretty well this time, focusing on other aspects of our lives while recording really helps balance that waiting game.

What was it like working with Nolan Perry?

Recording with Nolan was such a great experience. He's definitely an up-and-comer in the recording industry. We've known Nolan for years and always wanted to record with him. He's definitely one of the most genuine, kind-hearted, and talented guys we know. More importantly he knows how to put up with us and all of our shenanigans! We shared a lot of the same visions, and at the same time, he was willing

to try things we never thought of and vice versa.

Are there any songs that you are excited for fans to hear? Why?

All of them included the B-sides! During the writing process we got on a roll and put together a great collection of songs. The hardest part was having to pick 4 songs that weren't going to make it on the album. Collectively we are all liking Revive, Papertrails, and Backwards Therapy the most!

Have you set a release date for the album yet?

August 9th via Solidarity Recordings.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

We greatly appreciate all the support we've received so far and for everyone that is a fan of our music, we highly encourage you to check out Solidarity Recordings and pick up an album from some other great bands!



Interview with Shane Embury
Interview by Bianca Delicata

LOCK UP

On your most recent album, *Necropolis Transparent*, there are appearances by Peter Tägtgren and Jeff Walker. How did the collabs come about?

Peter was the original vocalist on the first album and I had always thought if we ever got to record a 3rd album then I would like to ask him back for guest vocals on a couple of tracks. Jeff and I have been friends since the dawn of time and so from a fun point of view I asked him to come down and hang out with us and also at the same time get him to lay some backing vocals down also to add to the spirit of the record.

Can you offer aspiring musicians a word of advice?

Stay true to what inspires you, be wary of manager's and record labels who promise a deal that seems to good to be true, always seek legal advice. Whatever inspires you musically I guess combine all of that as to just copy a certain style can be a little redundant. Originality is tough now a day's but try to push the boundaries. Follow your heart - technicality is good but but a good riff is better in my opinion and try and be cool on the way up to fellow musicians as on the way down they will be there for you - not good to get to big of an ego!

I understand that 2009 was supposed to be the last year that Lock Up would be playing live shows, yes? What had changed your mind and inspired you to make another record and book more live performances?

We enjoyed the show so much that it kick started us into thinking about another album. We had thought about it for many years but only after doing the show did it seem the right time to make another album

Your last album released before *Necropolis Transparent* was in 2007. By the current reactions and opinions from your fans' on the new album, do you think they're impressed?

Generally from what I have read fans and magazines alike have said that the new record is great so thats cool for us to hear. We do feel like we have developed a sound of our own now which is positive for the future !!

What would you like an audience member to get out of your show?

The show has energy and honesty and respect from where all 4 of us came from musically - The underground so all we can hope for is that the music moves people in a way that helps them release their tension's of everyday life as did the bands that inspire Lock Up do the same for us when we were younger!

While writing, do you aim for a specific audience? Why or why not?

We don't think about it or assume what our audience is. When rehearsing together we get satisfaction from the riffs that we are coming up with and if that breaks a smile on our face then thats good enough - we can only hope that the fans who have stuck with us feel the same way also.

Are you embarrassed or encouraged when you hear all these new artists on the radio with tons of editing and auto-tune used on their songs?

I don't really care.

How did you meet the other members of Lock Up and decide to form a band and play music together?

I met Tomas when played a band called Grotisque in 1989 at a napalm death show, I met Nick at a Maleovelant creation show in 1990 and Anton when my other band Napalm Death chile in 1997... somehow the starts aligned at the right point and place in time and here we are now it happened!

Now that *Necropolis Transparent* is released, can fans expect a tour to support the new album?

We hope to play some shows here and there and when we can so the answer would be yes.

MY DYING BRIDE

Interview with Aaron Stainthorpe
Interview by Bianca Delicata

For Evinta, why did you decide to put aside the traditional metal instruments and use more classical elements? Did you ever fear that your fans wouldn't be as impressed as they would with your other metal-inspired records?

Evinta is a project where we took several of our past riffs, harmonies, vocal lines etc... re-arranged them and re-performed them with classical musicians creating an epic, majestic journey through the dark mind of My Dying Bride. It is NOT a regular outing for us, however, the new 'metal' offering is well under way and if we can't get it out this year it will be early next year.

Is there a band you'd absolutely love to share the stage with?

Well, I like Celtic Frost, Dead Can Dance, Nick Cave, Swans and a bunch of others but I'm not sure I'd actually like to share a stage with them. Sometimes it's better not to meet your idols although Tom Warrior was great to chat with.

What made you want to release Evinta on the 20th anniversary of MDB rather than the 10th, or 15th?

It wasn't ready for those dates, and it actually wasn't even ready for the 20th either so it came out on our 21st, which is nice. These massive projects are hard work so we didn't want to rush it.

What would you say is MDB's biggest accomplishment to date?

I honestly don't know. We've been around for a long time and have achieved a lot and I'm very proud of everything we have released. And we've never had a manager either so I'm doubly proud of what we've done.

Most bands today seem to lose their inspiration, thus leading themselves into a dark hiatus. What kept My Dying Bride so strong for twenty years (and many more to come)?

We generally focus on the darker, gloomier side of life for inspiration and the world we live in is pretty menacing and dangerous and so long as it stays that way (which it will) we'll carry on doing what we do because we rather oddly enjoy it.

What made you decide that you wanted to make music? Was there a specific event, or band/artist that got you into this?

Nothing specific. We were young lads into the hard metal scene and wondered if we could join in the fun one day, so we did. We took inspiration from the bands we were

listening to at the time (Celtic Frost, Bathory, Slayer, Trouble, Candlemass) added a bit of our own Northern misery and away we went. We have always done what we want and never followed trends and never had a manager to tell us what to do and with that kind of freedom, it was inevitable we'd be around for some time.

What's the best tour memory you have?

I have loads but some outstanding ones would be when we played on the Iron Maiden football team in Sweden, Italy and then Scotland. Fantastic times running all over the pitch with Steve Harris yelling 'pass me the fucking ball you Northern cunt!' Happy days.

MDB was formed in the early 1990's but has gone through several line-up changes since then. Is it hard to re-group after losing members?

Surprisingly not. I thought we'd never be the same when Rick left but we bounced back immediately, which was the same story as others left. It's a slight inconvenience, nothing more.

What can fans expect from MDB in the remaining months of 2011?

If we can't get the new CD out this year, we'll release an EP possibly with one epic tale covering 3 different acts and lasting well over 20 minutes. Check www.mydyingbride.org for up to date details.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

EDWARD O'NEIL

**Is there a song you've written that means a lot to you? What is it about?**

I wrote this song called "Seventeen" its basically about being scared to grow up. Everyone feels a little scared to leave high-school and writing a song about it really just help me move on from it and explore the next chapter in my life.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

I have a nuts memory I can hear a new word once and it sticks with me. So I inspire myself for the lyrics. Musically, the night time inspires me when its dead quiet except for the sound of the crickets and the trees.

Do you have to be in a specific mood to write music?

Yes! I do i have to be extremely tired to write music. When your over tired you get wacky and can think of creative things. It sounds odd, but it works.

If you could play a show with any band or artist who would it be and why?

Say Anything, that band is just insanely good. I would love to meet those guys.

What can we expect from you in the future?

Revolutionary music and lots of touring, quite possibly even in the USA.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks to anyone reading this and thanks to Stitched Sound for being awesome.

What first got you started on your musical career?

Some of the older kids at my school had there own bands and I just thought it was really neat , so i picked up learning piano and fell in love with it.

Who were your biggest inspirations and influences when you first started playing music? Are they still the same now?

I really enjoyed acoustic music when I first started, bands like Iron & Wine, Dashboard Confessional you know, the classic emo bands. But now I've been very into old music from the 60s and 70s because lets face it , music has only gone downhill since then.

What sets your music different from other artists that may be compared to you?

Well the goal has always been to bring back some of the great songwriting from the late 60s but not forget that its 2011. I don't expect record everything live off the floor like they did in those days, but i also think its important to show that you have talent , keeping the auto-tune to a minimum and writing more creative lyrics. Its like a blend of The Beatles and Katy Perry. Electro-Rock if you will.

Looking back at when you first started making music, did you ever expect to be where you are now?

Not in a million years. This time last year I had 17 followers on Twitter and now I have over 4000. It blows my mind everyday that people care at all about what I'm doing.

What goals did you have in mind when you first started?

Write the best music on planet earth and melt as many faces as I can, making my stamp on the music industry.



Interview by Megan Leetz

THIS IS OUR STORYLINE

What made you decide to start This Is Our Storyline?

It was more of a spontaneous decision. Me and my friends were just jamming one day and decided to make music. After a few weeks, we got four songs done and started playing local shows. Hearing people's comments made us who we are. It made us go further and proceed with recording music.

Do you and your friends have similar music tastes that helped inspire the band?

Yes, Punk rock. We've covered a lot of Sum41 and Blink 182 songs. It helped us make our own songs.

With much exposure from PureVolume, Facebook, and Myspace, there seems to be a greater need for bands to be unique, what makes This Is Our Storyline unique from other bands?

What makes it unique is when we try to connect with the listeners with our songs. We make songs for them to relate as easy as possible. Also, we do a lot of covers and we turn into a new pop punk tune.

Do you have any big plans, touring, recording, etc., before the end of the year?

Our plan is to record our first album around September. After the release, we're going to be touring around Ontario with other bands.

That's great! Have you toured a lot?

Not really, we're still a starting band. We got to play shows in Toronto a few times.

So far, what is your favorite song that you have written?

I think my favorite song that I wrote is my latest one "Same One Wish" it's going to be released sometime next week.

What age did you start playing? What was your first instrument?

I started playing the guitar and piano when I was eight years old.

Any last words that you would like to tell our readers?

Stay tuned for more songs and covers. Download our songs from Purevolume and don't forget to like our Facebook page! We'll see you on the road this upcoming fall and winter!



Interview with Ryan
Interview by Cynthia Lam

How did you meet the other members of Vendetta Skies and decide to start a band?

James is my brother and both him and I played in a previous band with Zach. Evan and Zach also played in a band so it ended up just us coming together from 2 previous bands. We all decided to do a battle of the bands together just for fun. After we wrote a few songs for it, we ended up placing 2nd and decided to keep it going.

What was the first instrument that you learned to play? What was the first song that you learned as well?

James and I both started on classical guitar. I'm pretty sure both of us learned Green Day's "Time of your life" first. It's a very simple song.

What has been your biggest accomplishment as a band?

As a band i think our biggest accomplishment was getting our first album done and then having our song "All My Life" being put on the Calgary radio station X92.9 FM. That was definitely huge for us.

Being from the Calgary, AB area are there any local bands that have influenced you?

I think a few bands like "For The Weekend" (who are on muchmusic's disband show) "The Evidence" and "Seventh Rain" have influenced us in terms of wanting to strive to be like they are. Those bands have tons of fans at each show and it would be amazing to have the same amount of people at our shows. They just market themselves very well and they have great live shows.

What is your favourite thing about Calgary?

The best thing in Calgary would have to be the many platforms to get our music out to the people. There are so many radio/battle of the bands contests each year to help bands. Furthermore, there are always venues to try and help local bands book shows.

Has age ever been a barrier for the band?

There isn't to much of a problem. However, some of our shows are in 18+ venues and that limits us to being able to have only a specific crowd.

What sets Vendetta Skies different from other bands?

I think that our music is our life. We all want to create great music. For me personally, i believe that each song has a message. Most song lyrics we have tend to be darker but i think the message can still be seen as uplifting and hopeful. We spend our hard earned money trying to allow people to hear more and more music from us. It's all about the fans and the people who enjoy our music.

What should fans expect at a Vendetta Skies show?

At every show we strive to push 110%. We don't take ourselves seriously, but we for sure take our music seriously. Putting on a great show is very important to us. Fans should definitely expect a tight set and a fun atmosphere.

Have you pulled any absurd antics on stage? What happened?

One of our shows we got asked to do an encore but we were asked to strip down. Our

drummer was the only one who was brave enough so he went down to just his boxers. Needless to say, the crowd cheered and had a few laughs.

Which two bands would you love to play a show with?

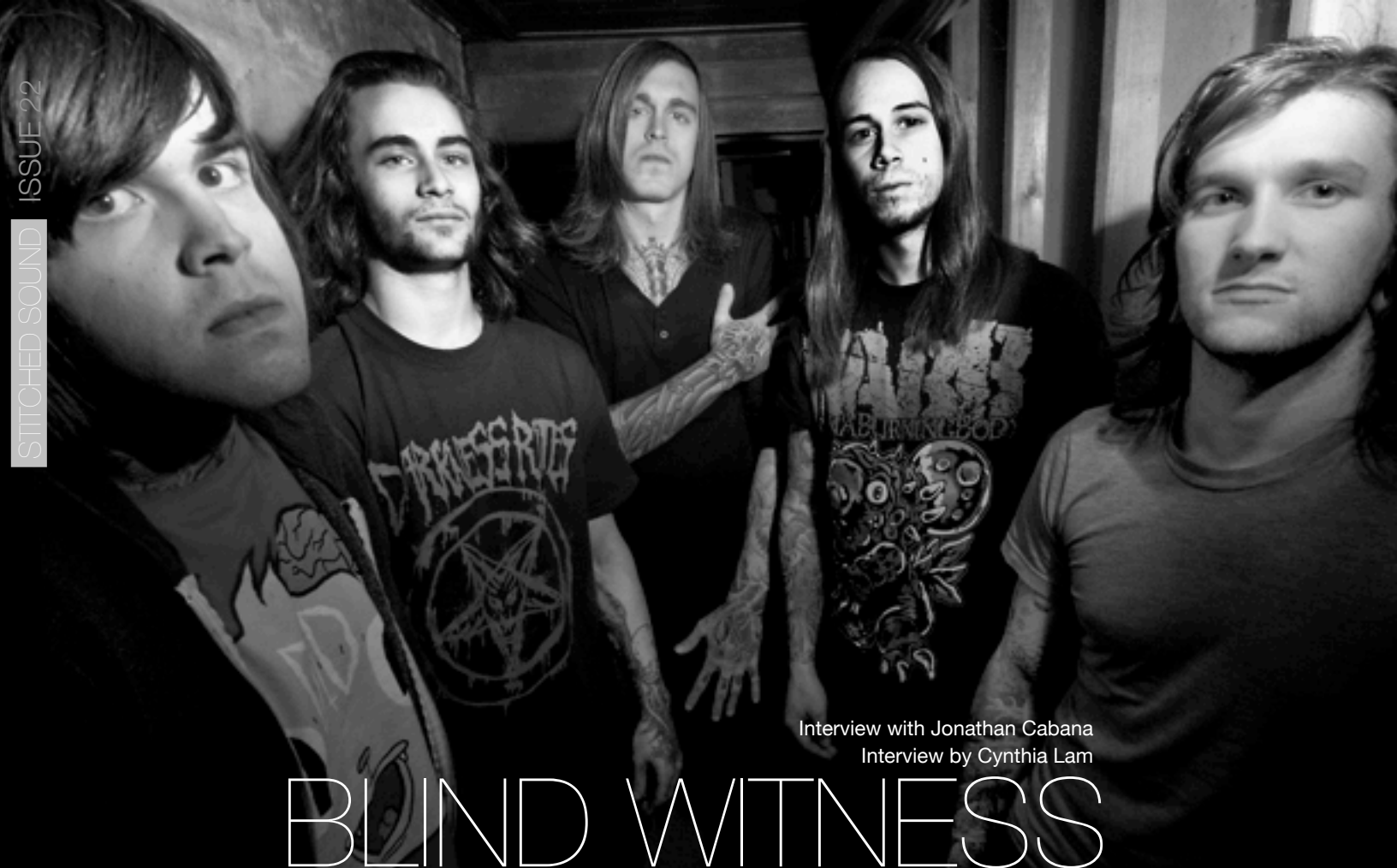
For us we would love to play a show with "The Evidence" or "For The Weekend". I believe realistically this could happen sometime in the future as we know band members in both those bands. For an absolute dream, it would be an honor to share the stage with Blink 182. I think every band member grew up playing their songs.

Is there a message that you're trying to send through music?

There is definitely a message in every song we write. Some songs are very dark and deep, but i like to think even in the darkest songs we write, people can see its more about being hopeful and getting back up from tragedy or conquering your problems. One of our new songs "Stand For Something" is all about being free. One of the lines is "Your a victim of the rules you live by" and I think everyone can relate to the idea of being weighed down by something and getting past it.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

We would just like the say thanks to anyone who listens to us and enjoys our music; It's all for you. Lastly, we are preparing our new album and we hope to get it out as soon as possible. There are 20ish songs in the works and we will narrow it down to the best 12-13. We cherish every fan we have. Thank you!



Interview with Jonathan Cabana
Interview by Cynthia Lam

BLIND WITNESS

When Blind Witness first started, what goals did you have in mind to accomplish? Have you accomplished any of these yet?
We wanted to carry the band as far as we could. It pretty much started in 2004, when P-L and I were only 16. We went to a Misery Signals show in Montreal. We hanged out with the band after the show and asked the guys how could we bring our band at their level. They told us to be on the road as much as we can and simply tour, tour and tour! When the other members of the band joined us, we took our project more seriously and decided to star touring.

What was the first instrument that you learned to play?
I learned to play guitar first. After a while, I switched for bass as I joined a local band called Mind Flyers. I met P-L at a Blind witness and Mind flyers show. The chemistry between P-L and I was great, so I decided to quit Mind Flyers to start playing with BW.

What made you decide to choose this instrument?
I don't remember. Probably because I wanted to impress my friends haha! I was fascinated by this instrument!

What is the craziest show that you've played? What made it so memorable?
There are 2, actually. The first one was in 2006 in our hometown. At that time, I just had left one of the biggest local band (Mind Flyers) in the area to join Blind Witness, which the Mind flyers fan were not digging at all. At the moment, BW's sound was new and different. We started playing shows every months in our hometown becoming more and more popular. When we released our first demo, we played a sold out show in a 500 capacity venue in our 50 000 people city. It was a great feeling, because we believed so much in our band, and the fan response was there for the first time. It gave us the guts to go out of our local area and start touring around Canada. My second craziest show is the Rockfest 2011. It was our first show out of our 9 months hiatus. I was afraid people would have forget about our band, but when I saw the huge crowd of fans cheering our band's name, I was super stoked people where still there for us.

Have you pulled any crazy antics on stage?
Except being extremely drunk on stage, no.

What do you do on your downtime during tour?
Watch movies, drink beers, party and skateboard.

Have you ever pulled or been a victim of your pranks? What happened?
No, never. I saw a couple members of different bands doing pranks to each other, but we never got there.

While writing music, do you aim for a specific genre or age group? Why or why not?
On our last record, we chose to stop writing music for people. We wanted to write music for ourselves first, and if people were digging it, then we knew it was really because they liked us as musicians, not as idols.

Who are some of your favourite artists or bands to play with?
Pretty much all the bands we got on tour with!

Can you tell us about how your recording and writing process is like?
Max and I pretty much do the pre-production together. After, we send it to Eric, who tells us what he likes and what he don't and he writes the drums. Finally, we jam together the song.

What can we expect from Blind Witness in the future?
We will be releasing a new record sometimes in the spring. We will be on the road but not as much as we used to be.

DRAWING NORTH

Interview by Cynthia Lam

What goals did you have set in mind with Drawing North first started?

We wanted to start a band that would create music that could influence and inspire people as well as grow and develop our musical skill and style.

Have you accomplished any of them yet?

We have definitely improved our musical talent and we believe that our next CD release (early 2012) will show music that is inspiring and also a huge step up from our current CD.

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

Our lyrics and music means something personal to us and we hope that people can hear and find meaning in the songs that apply to their own personal life.

I understand that you released an EP called *Vision in Valour* in January. Were you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from the EP?

Vision In Valour was our first ever release as a band. We had a sold out show that was extremely fun and we had a good response, however, like most bands the first release is a great indication of what we needed to work on musically, stylistically and personally for the next release. Although we are happy with *vision in valour*, we can

guarantee a huge improvement for the next CD!

Is there a concept behind the EP?

We wanted to create a record that we believed in. While it isn't concept based, we recorded with the idea of hoping to spread our music further than we ever had in the past

What is your favourite song from the EP, what is it about?

The last track 'Home' is our favourite. It's the song that we are most proud of on the EP. It is about the secure feeling of finding home after being in a dark place. 'home' is different for every person, whether it be in love, religion, family, whatever!

Do you have any plans for touring or even travelling to America in the near future?

Definitely! We really hope to get over there next year. Until then, we will be playing shows throughout Australia and prepping for the next release!

Are there any local bands that have influenced you? How?

Hands Like Houses and Tonight Alive are definitely two local bands that have shown amazing dedication and the results are starting to show for both! Their Local success has influenced us to keep at it if it's truly what you love.

What is your favourite thing about being from Australia?

Catching kangaroo's to school! But seriously we are very blessed to have grown up in such an incredible country. Our favourite thing would probably have to be the culture in general. It's a really beautiful place to live.

When was it that you knew you wanted to play music for a living?

A few of us have wanted to music for a living ever since we were little and the other half only picked up their instruments when we started the band. From what we've experienced and learned so far, we all know that this is what we love to do and if we had the opportunity to do it for a living that would so fulfilling!

What should we expect from Drawing North in the future?

A new CD very soon, a lot more touring and heading over seas!

Is there anything else that you'd like to add?

We'd love to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us so far! For those who don't know us yet, listen to our music, if you like it, come hang with us at a show and join the family!



I ANTHEM

Interview with Tyler Edwards Interview by Cynthia Lam

What first sparked your interest in music as a kid? Was there a specific band, show, or event that sparked it?

My initial spark of interest came at a summer youth camp with my church. I was going to be a junior in highschool and was really beginning to search for my identity. I knew that God had a calling on me, but at that time, all i knew was baseball. Throughout the week, my attention was continually drawn to the guitars, melodies, and lyrics of each song. I told God that if he would allow me the ability to learn how to create those things I would use my gifts to point others towards Him.

How did you come up with the band name "I Anthem"?

I Anthem is a bit of a hybrid. I was searching for words that could captivate the direction of our band's heart. I stumbled across the word "irenic." The definition went something like the tendency to promote peace and reconciliation, which pretty much summed up our band discussions about direction. So, "anthem" brought the meaning full circle: songs about peace and reconciliation. However, we decided Irenic Anthem was a mouthful; so, we simplified and decided on I Anthem.

I understand that you recently released a new music video. Did you face any challenges while filming this music video?

To be honest, we didn't come across too many challenges. Kris Meade and his team at Radiofree did an amazing job. The video was shot in an old abandoned warehouse; so, i guess the biggest struggle was the amount of dust everyone inhaled.

What inspired this video? Are there any concepts to grasp?

We wanted to try to do something very simple and just rock and roll. We tried to avoid concepts and story lines, so that the music could just be fun and speak for itself.

The song itself seems to send a strong message. What did you write the song about?

Revolutionary Heart is a song about overcoming the fear of opposition and failure. Personally, I waste much time contemplating and weighing each "what-if." I believe everyone has the ability to start a revolution that can improve ourselves and the world around us. We just gotta let it out.

If you could use only one word to describe I Anthem what would it be and why?

Music. At the end of the day this band creates music. The band does not define me or the other guys in the band. So, we don't want to idolize or exhalt the band. Our identity, dreams, and hopes lie in something much bigger that I Anthem.

What sets I Anthem different from other bands who you may be compared to?

I think we are different because we are trying to get back to the foundations of rock n roll. What made the guitar riffs of ACDC, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, and all those bands so captivating and timeless? We want to take those things and combine them with the modern edge of today's rock bands like Foo Fighters, Anberlin, and Switchfoot (my personal fav).

Who are some of your favourite bands to play a show with?

I love playing shows with more established bands such as Emery, Mayday Parade... I love it. Not only is it an honor, we also get a

chance to watch and study these bands for free.

In your opinion, how important is it to keep in touch with your fans?

There are so many bands and amazing songs out there today. People can easily forget about bands that are not on the front of every magazine and website. I think it is important to keep in contact to be remembered but to also show fans that you actually care about them as people and not just numbers.

To what extent has the internet been a useful tool in the growth of I Anthem?

The internet is a huge help because it allows us to share music and news in a very cheap and effective way all across the world, and gas is expensive so it is a nice alternative when you can't play shows year around.

Which social networking site do you think is the most convenient for bands to use?

Facebook, it allows us to connect personal friends to our band, and then, those friends can spread word to their friends.

Is there a message that I Anthem is trying to send through music?

We want our music to be a beacon of truth and light to those who feel lost or hopeless. I also feel that music is a universal language that speaks to each person in a specific way. So, I like to try to not speak too much on behalf of the music.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I would like to say that the most influential music in my life is the music my friends have shared with me. I hope that I Anthem can be the kind of music that spreads through friendship and loved ones.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

INWARD EYE

What made you decide to start making music, and to form a band with your brothers?

We grew up being huge fans of our dad's old rock records from the 60's and 70's. So by the time we were around the age of 10 or 11 we got a couple of the cheapest guitars we could find, Anders would drum on pots and pans and tupperware until eventually we got drums and a bass. I guess we ended up forming a band together out of convenience since we all lived together and the gear was just sitting there in the basement for us.

How did you come up with the name "Inward Eye"?

Dave took it from a line in a poem he had to read for school probably in grade 7. We all just went along with it since it wasn't horrible (a lot of band names tend to be) and we needed a name for an upcoming gig.

What has been your biggest accomplishment as a band?

Some of the highlights for us over the years have been going on tour with our musical heroes The Who, signing with RCA records just out of high school, playing the closing ceremonies of the 2010 Olympics and of course all the traveling we've gotten to do.

Who were your inspirations when you first started playing and writing music? Are they more or less the same now?

When we started out our biggest influences were bands like The Who, Green Day and The Rolling Stones. We still love the music we grew up listening to. We've basically just branched off and added to our influences with bands like The Stooges, The Clash, Velvet Underground, The Jam and The Kinks. Over

the years we've kinda traced back what has inspired bands we like. For instance a lot of the british bands of the 60's led us to be huge fans of old R&B from the Motown and Stax labels.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

Lyrically, I think everyday life and our personal experiences, as well as stuff we've read by our favorite authors and artists. Of course stuff in the news and current events. Musically, a lot of old garage rock, 60's mod, 70's punk. I'm always trying to strip back and dumb down our music to the purest level, searching for big stupid riffs that remind me why I picked up the guitar in the first place.

Do you have a favourite venue or place to play in?

The nicest venue we've ever played in was probably the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, but we still enjoy playing in any dive bar, nothing beats that connection of having the audience right up in your face.

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

For current bands I'd go with The Black keys since I love how much noise they make for just two guys. Another band that would be cool to play with would be The Dead Weather since they make such interesting dark music, it's like gothic fuzzy blues, and Jack White is an amazing guitarist.

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments on stage?

We've had our share of wipeouts onstage falling off of speakers etc. One time while drumming Anders stood up and his drum stool tipped over and fell off the back of the stage.

When he went to sit back down he fell off the back of the stage as well. Dave puked onstage once (he had swine flu). I remember in the middle of a song he ran behind his bass amps for a about 30 seconds then came back and started singing again, it was a discreet onstage puking, no-one noticed. All the conservative perfectionists can take note of that, the audience doesn't notice the wrong notes let alone puking onstage!

Where do you see yourself five years from now?

I hope we're a successful international touring act with strong music sales but it's too hard to tell in this business.

What makes Inward Eye different from bands that you may be compared to?

A lot rock bands we tour with use backing tracks, which I think is pretty damn lame and dishonest. Go home and practice or get more members to fill out your sound or just accept and embrace the way you sound with your imperfections. Music should be honest and human, its the only way to make a real connection with the audience. So I think that's what makes us unique to a lot of bands, what you see is what you get. Three guys: guitar, bass and drums trying to make as much noise as we can.

Do you have anything planned for the near future?

We've been writing and demoing our next record for the last year. We're hoping to record the album down in LA very shortly so we can hit the road again. We've gone through a huge growth period over this last year and this record will sound very different from our last. It'll sound stripped down and raw, more like we sound live.

BEHIND THE LENS WITH MATT VOGEL



Who are some artists that you really look up to photography wise? Why? I bought a book of photographer Nick Onken's work a year or two ago, and it blows me away every time. He's a travel and lifestyle photographer, but his pictures are just downright amazing. His photos are so clear and the tones are always perfect. That's just one! I've got tons of people that inspire me. I keep a folder on my computer of inspiring images, and every time I come across something really cool, I save the photo and the photographers name. But I think inspiring and looking up to are two different things in my mind, so I'll talk about both. In regards to looking up to people, I think my dream life would be along the lines of Adam Elmakias, Ryan Russell, Megan Thompson, or any number of other awesome music photographers who tour a lot and take awesome photos. It's not something I'd probably want to do forever, but I hope I can at least do it for a while somewhere down the line. Plus it's something you have to work really hard for and I'm still paying my dues to get there!

Who are the bands that you love photographing, and ones that you'd like to one day?

I will never miss an opportunity to shoot Underoath. Those guys kill it every single time, without fail. They come out guns blazing and don't stop – it's awesome. I'm not totally into post-hardcore or metal all the time, but those artists are some of my favorites to photograph. Bands like Bring Me The Horizon and The Devil Wears Prada are some of my favorites. I've only shot Circa Survive once, but they were really, really cool. Can I just suggest that everyone go see them live sometime? It's like ... ethereal.

I've been really lucky throughout my couple years of shooting bands – I've got to shoot almost every band I've ever wanted to! There are a few still left on the bucket list, though. Paramore, Blink-182, Taking Back Sunday, and Brand New are the big ones. Bloc Party would also be really cool as they were the first band I ever became obsessed with!

How do you feel about people posting your photos without permission or credit? (Like for example on tumblr!)

I think it just happens and it's not something to get hung up on! To me, there's no reason to freak out and yell at someone on the internet for thinking your picture was so cool that they wanted to put it on their blog. Actually, I think it's awesome! If people want to share my pictures, that's awesome. I want you to! It's always really nice when people credit your photos and everything, but I don't realistically expect that someone would spend six hours searching through Flickr to try to find out what my name is. Now, if someone tries taking your photos and telling people that they took them; that's a very different story. Though personally I find that very humbling (... someone wants to be me so bad, they're

What first sparked your interest in photography?

I started stealing my mom's camera when I was young and would take pictures of trees, sunsets, grass ... you know, just like everyone does when they're a kid! (that's normal, right?) That's what got me started with photography. Music-wise - I always loved music, but didn't start going to shows until later in high school. Eventually I made it to my first one and thought it was awesome! So, of course, I couldn't stop at just one. I started going to shows almost every week, dragging along my best friends, and eventually bringing my camera to local shows every chance I got!

Which camera did you first start off with? What camera would you recommend for kids wanting to pursue photography?

I started with a Canon Rebel XS. I get asked this question a lot! I don't know if there's a right answer to it. Everybody's different, and I haven't used a whole lot of beginner cameras besides the Canon Rebel series so it's hard for me to compare! I will say that I was completely happy with my Canon Rebel XS and have had no issues when playing with friends' other Rebel models!

Do you think there's anything "overrated" with the photography industry today?

Interesting question. I think gear is overrated. I got caught up in a gear phase for a while – actually I think most everyone does. I have minimal desires these days towards new gear. When you realize how little of a picture is attributed to gear, you really stop caring so much. Some of my favorite photographers swing Rebels and 50mm 1.8's. Nothing wrong with that.

Where do you hope to be in the future?

In a perfect world, I'd get to live in LA or NYC and take pictures at a different show every single night for the rest of my life. Unfortunately this world is hardly perfect, so instead I live in Iowa where we get one show a month or so haha. Lots of driving! I hope that someday soon I'll be able to find somebody to tour with, I think that would be an awesome experience. I try not to get too long term oriented because life changes so fast! Who knows, tomorrow somebody could steal all my gear and I'll never shoot a show again! However, I hope I can keep doing what I'm doing for a long time, because I love every second of it.



GIVE ME SUMMER YA LOVE TOUR

richmond, va

Seeing all time low for me never gets old, being my 16th time seeing them was on their first stop of the Give Me Summer Ya Love tour with Mayday Parade and We Are The In Crowd. The show took place in Richmond, VA right instead the campus of VCU, The National. A gorgeous venue that resembles of an opera house, this was the ideal venue to kick off a tour.

We Are The In Crowd started off the night with a great set, playing a few new songs and the most known such as For The Win, Never Be What You want and many more. Mayday Parade took the stage, these guys are known for not touring as much as they used too, but when they do you can expect to be blown away. Derek Sanders sure has an incredible voice, MP opening to the well known song Kids In Love and continued on playing songs that were new and some songs they had never played live before.

As the crowd anxiously waited for the band they all came to see, the guy ran out more excited then I had ever seen them, looking happier then ever, starting with a song of Dirty Work "Do You Want Me (Dead)", and then mixing in songs from Nothing Personal and even bringing back some oldies. The biggest shock of the night was when alex said "We haven't played this song in a long long time and didn't know if it should go in the set, but it did and I'm glad." Then started the intro the "The Party Scene".

Overall this was a phenomenal show, and if you are headed out to this show I highly recommend bringing a camera because the lighting was truly the best I've seen yet

Hailing from Florence, SC is the enthusiastic and talented band **I Anthem**. They are filled with tons of potential which can be easily heard on their latest release *Not Afraid Not Alone*. This quartet is setting their foot in the music industry with a steady mindset and good values, **I Anthem** is set to make their mark in 2011.

Not Afraid Not Alone is the latest release which features six phenomenal tracks from the band. This EP starts off with the "Making A Scene" which is a track that will introduce the listener to I Anthem, their extremely catchy beats and melodies, and shows them what to expect for the rest of the EP. "Revolutionary Heart" is an extremely powerful song in the way that not only does it drive a good rhythm, the lyrics are meaningful as well. This EP ends off with the track "Lorica" which concludes the musical journey with wonderful gang vocals which make the lyrics stand out "I'm not alone / I'm not alone / but will hang on tight to what they know".

I Anthem did a fantastic job with *Not Afraid Not Alone*, bringing a unique sound to the alternative genre. *Not Afraid Not Alone* is packed with good rhythms, great lyrics and is definitely worth a listen. After hearing this EP, I am extremely excited to see what the future holds for I Anthem.

NOT
AFRAID
NOT
ALONE
I ANTHEM

Any comments? Feedback?

info@stitchedsound.com

CONTACT

For Interview Inquiries please contact us at
cynniephotographs@gmail.com

General Inquiry: stitchedsound@googlemail.com

Website: <http://stitchedsound.com>

Tumblr: <http://stitchedsound.tumblr.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StitchedSound>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/stitchedsound>

If you would like to contribute to Stitched Sound please contact
us at cynthialam@stitchedsound.com

A Special Thank You To:

Bianca Delicata, Sarah Lozano, Sarah Rutz, Catherine Khom, Imani Givertz, Ashley Forrester, Azaria Podplesky, Angela Winnie, Jenna Young, Juliette Chagnon, Kelly Arias, Lainey Lamonto, Laura Hennessey, Madison Bass-Taylor, Megan Leetz, Michelle Jay, Robbs Quezada, Sarah Bergen, Stefany Bryan, Taime Guido, and Tim Story.

Also to The Season Premiere, Hit The Lights, Sweatshirt Weather, Fighting The Influence, Brighter Brightest, The Mighty Fine, Lock Up, My Dying Bride, Edward O'Neil, This Is Our Storyline, Vendetta Skies, Blind Witness, Drowning Youth, I Anthem, Matt Vogel, and Inward Eye.

And also to all of you who are reading this!