

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #16

JAKE GERMANY

Farewell Dreamer, The Mire
NGHBRS, Aria & more



Ringin' in the new.... semester?

Well this month has been hectic for the Stitched Sound staff. Finals, school, and the whole new year plans fiasco. Our first issue of the year Issue #15 had such a great success and I would like to thank each and every one of you for helping out in the ways that you have. As of right now (January 30th) we have 1106 downloads and readers on our last issue. That's crazy!

Well the new semester has started for most of our staff members. This means a new start and no finals for a while - joy right? But along with that we have new and exciting plans that we can't wait to show you guys soon!

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.

We have a Twitter, and Facebook. Links are on our site if you click on Contact. It'd be great if you guys were able to help us promote Stitched Sound.

We always appreciate feedback. It helps us know what we should change, or what you enjoy so we can continue bringing this to you. Send it to cynniephotographs@gmail.com or stitchedsound@googlemail.com

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ARIA

Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photo by John Ker

Aria started out almost two years ago. How would you say you have all grown since then?

We've definitely grown in more ways than one. Individually and as a unit. Firstly, our sound is in a constant state of maturation. In the past 2 years we've also overcome a lot of obstacles that have thrown us off and made things difficult for us but as much as it ripped us apart, it also brought us together.

What would you say that each band member brings to Aria?

Kurtis: I bring the good looks.

Nick: The chinese food to practice..(I wish...he's actually Korean)

Anthony: The mood swings.

Bianca: The estrogen.

Damian: What's estrogen?

On a more serious note...we all have different tastes and grew up in different places. We're also influenced by different bands and artists and those things collectively add up to who we are as a band.

Would you say that you are proud of all that Aria has accomplished so far?

We're definitely proud of everything we've accomplished so far. But we're always striving for more. We're a hard-working band.

How did you meet the other members of Aria?

B: E-Harmony. That's why they're all boys.

Has distance and the separation of countries (US and Canada) ever been a problem for the band?

Yes. The border has created some problems for us. But it's not something we'll ever let come between us and what we were meant to do.

Could you describe Aria's sound in one word? What would it be and why?

Nick: Sexy.

Damian: Deep.

Anthony: Intoxicating.

Kurtis: Scandalous.

Bianca: Scintillating.

While writing music, what is the biggest challenge that you face? How do you overcome this?

Incorporating all of our influences and making them blend perfectly as well as finding the right person to capture the true Aria sound. In order to overcome this we have to make sacrifices and compromises but in the end we're all very happy with the outcome.

Is there a specific show that you've played that sticks out to you? What makes it so memorable?

Each show is memorable in its own way

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments on stage? What happened?

Anthony tried to get me to tell a ridiculous tale about how Kurtis died in a tragic car accident because he insisted that it was hilarious. So when I refused, he decided to tell it himself. And nobody laughed.

What should we expect from Aria in the future?

Blood, sweat and tears.

SIT DOWN STRIKES

Interview by Cynthia Lam

What inspired you to start playing music?

The bands that we grew up listening to (Blink-182, New Found Glory, Green Day) inspired us to pick up instruments and try to make music that they would play.

Coming from Baltimore, Maryland, would you say that the local music scene has influenced you in any way? How?

All Time Low is a big influence of ours and achieved what we would like to achieve one day and set the standards.

Has your "sound" changed since the band first started? How?

No, not really considering we've only been a band since September, but we're still trying to push ourselves to be better with every song we write.

Could you describe Sit Down Strikes in one word? What would it be and why?

We know a lot of bands probably say this, but probably "unique" because we like to

mix sounds of other bands and experiment with combinations of genres.

What is your favourite song that you've written? What is the song about?

The first song we wrote, "Stars at RITZ" probably because it was the song that really got us going as a band. The song is about the pros and cons of getting over an ex-girlfriend.

Do you ever get writers block as a musician? What do you do to overcome it?

Sometimes, but we usually just take a break and do something to occupy our time, and an idea usually comes to mind.

What have you learned about each band member while writing music with them?

We've learned that there's a lot of things that we butt heads about but at the same time we put our opinions together very well.

What is the most frustrating thing about writing or recording music?

With writing, probably writer's block and making sure that everything fits (lyrics, melodies, etc.), and with recording, making sure everything sounds good so we don't wish we did something different after hearing the finished product.

Should fans be expecting music from Sit Down Strikes in the near future?

Yes, of course, we're always writing new songs and recording when we get the chance so more people can hear our music.

Where do you hope to be in two years from now?

Touring (with our favorite bands would be nice). Hopefully and doing what we like full-time.



THE CROWLEY BROTHERS

Interview by Sarah Lozano



SS: What do think the hardest part about writing a song?

Travis: I'll say finding something the three of us strongly agree, because there might be something that one person will come up with an idea with and the next person will "Eh, I don't know. I don't really like that."

Jeffery: I think one of the difficult things with coming up with a song, is to have one person come up with something that really fits the other person. Similar to what Travis said. Like it might be difficult for Travis to write something for me, than it is for me to write something with me. So that one of the problems we face, but we're able to work it out.

Youtube, might be the place for you to post that random funny video of your dog playing fetch with himself, but for the music lover it's a place for them to share their talent with the world. The Crowley Brothers (Brian [20], Travis [18], and Jeffrey [16]) are just the wonderful type of talent you'd find on there. With their amazing twist on top 40's song and beautifully written original songs I'm pretty sure it won't be long until you'll be hearing these three brothers from New York, New York on every radio station in America and beyond.

SS: Your parents are musicians, did they ever think about you guys being musicians much growing up?

Travis: They have a love for music, and that really helped us love music. I think, because of the way it was always in our house. And they always encouraged us to be as musical or artist as we could.

Brian: But they never pushed us to pursue or think of music as our career or anything. It was just a think that we all loved.

SS: You guys gained a lot of popularity by doing covers on youtube. What's been your favorite cover so far?

Brian: My favorite cover, well recently I love Just a Dream (*Nelly*), um, and I'm sure Just a Dream is all of our favorite for right now.

Jeffery: and Magic (*B.o.B*)

Brian: Yeah, magic was a great one too.

SS: What are three things that make the perfect song for you?

Brian: We love to have catchy melodies; because we...well we listen to all types of music, pop, rock, hip-hop, indie, um electronic we listen to all types of genres, but the thing that really attracts us to certain kinds of music is a catch hook.

Travis: Something that makes the song very listenable.

Brian: We just want people to sing our songs.

Travis: Other than that we put heavy importance on the lyrics. We take our time and really think about the lyrics we write.

Brian: Okay, that's two.

Jeffery: And the third one, I think that once we have both of those we really like adding harmonies to the song. It just adds the finishing touch to the song

Brian: And it kind of gives us our own signature sound.

SS: Can you describe each other in one word

Brian: Travis is...

Jeffery: Travis is sarcastic a lot, but I'm not sure that he's word to describe him.

Brian: um Jeffery...um

Jeffery: I don't we all get on each other nerves, but I think that's true with all brother, but yeah, we all just like really love each other so in that scenes it's difficult to describe each other in one word, because our relationship is just so complicated. There so many other words.

SS: So how do you guys compromise with that?

Brian: For each song, or how we've been writing our own original music is, one person kind of comes to table with the idea for the song. Like "Oh, I this story about this girl I want to tell" and my brothers, we all usually have opinions on that relationship or story and we kind of try to bring our own flavor on that story. I guess that's kind of the way we comprise with each other.

SS: You guys are all pretty young. Have guys ever had to deal with anything like having to choose your music career over your social life yet?

Brian: Everything is still kind of new for us; I mean we all still go to school; we still hang out with our friend as much as possible.

Travis: Also we try to involve our social lives or whatever with our music. Say we have a show we'll try to get all of our friends to come.

Jeffery: And it's cool, because a lot of our friends enjoy our music.

Brian: Because that's the most important thing to us. We want to create songs that our friends would want to listen to, but also we would want to listen to it, so what's the point of creating something that you don't want to listen to. But yeah right now it has become such an issue. Right now everyone's just really excited and supportive.

SS: So who's are a few of your favorite artist?

Travis: Some of the people we like to model our sound after people like *Jason Mraz*, *Matchbox Twenty*, and *Train* groups like that.

Brian: We love that 90s' alternative pop rock music. Like Third Eye Blind, like we love that type of music. That's what we grew up on. Our parents always listened to that stuff. We want to bring that sound back.

Travis: Also we feature a lot of hip-hop influence, because we love rap music.

SS: We'd love to see you guys rapping in the future?

Brian: Yes

Travis: Yes, well in our covers we're rapping in them now.

SS: What's your main goal for now? Are you looking to get signed? Do more shows?

Brian: Yes, we'd love to get signed. We'd love to do so many more shows. We'd love to be able to record an album. One of the biggest goals we have is I say, we want to bring our music to our fans. One of the coolest parts about youtube is that our face can be broadcasted all over the world. Like the other day we got a message from a girl in

Egypt. We think alright they got pyramids in Egypt, it's weird to think that people in Egypt our watching our videos.

Jeffery: I think one of the general goals is to keep what we have going, because what we're doing is really fun for us and the fans seem to enjoy it. To keep what we have going strong would be great.

Travis: And, I think if we can continue to keep our fans interested and involved in what we do I think that's great. In addition to this two other specific goals, we'd love to win a Grammy award.

Brian: Let's see how far we go with that.

Travis: Exactly, this one...and I should have said this one first, because this one is a little bit realistic, we want to play on the today show. They always do those little concerts and we always go to them and we love them.

Brian: We're the biggest fans of music. We'd do very...I guess fan girl antiques, like we'd wake up really early to see some of our favorite artist. That would be a dream for us to be on the other side of that, for people to wake up for us, because we know what it's like to be in their shoes. If we can inspire people to go out and do their dreams and say "I love music, I want to be on the Today show" it doesn't even have to be that. We want people to look at their situation and were we are and kind of improve it.

Be sure to check out the Crowley Brothers at <http://facebook.com/officialcrowleybrothers> and <http://youtube.com/crowleybrothers>



Interview by Juliette Chagnon

FAREWELL DREAMER

What do you do in your free time?

Well I mean, we all have our different little things. Most of our our free time is dedicated to music anyway. When we're not playing shows, practicing and recording, we're planning shows practicing and recording, so it's almost like an all-the-time type of thing.

What are some of your favourite songs to play on the drums?

As far as our songs go, "Open your eyes" is really fun to play live because it's fast paced, and everyone gets super into it. At home by myself, I like to play a lot of August Burns Red and We Came As Romans songs to keep my chops up haha.

How old were you when you started playing with Farewell Dreamer?

I was 17.

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag floating though the wind, wanting to start again?

Always. It makes me wanna cry.

Do you wake up in the morning feeling like p-diddy?

Nope, I wake up in the morning feeling like Christopher Alexander Donis.

Favorite mainstream band?

Hmm, I like Train a lot.

Whats the writing process for a song by Farewell Dreamer like?

Well Dante usually comes through practice with a guitar riff or a lead or something. Then he and I usually build the guitar parts from that, and we'll write maybe a thirty second part with the guitar part, play it with drums and bass which are pretty simple to write based on guitar parts, and we'll build from that one section of music. Then we'll finish

the song and have andy come down and lay down vocals.

Where do you see Farewell Dreamer in two years?

I see us on tour most of the time, hopefully recording a few albums, doing big things.

Who influenced you to be a drummer?

Honestly, it was school. I always hated school and knew that it wasn't what I wanted to do with my life. I picked up music when I was nine, and I just really wanted to be in a famous band. It was pretty cute. But if I had to pick a person, I'd say travis barker cause I grew up listening to blink 182.



BAD RABBITS

Interview by Cynthia Lam

Would you be able to describe Bad Rabbits in one word?

Homogenized

What makes Bad Rabbits different from other bands?

It's hard for me to say that our music is TOTALLY different than everything out there right now. I have always thought that whatever you are doing at any point, that someone else is probably doing the same thing elsewhere. They just might not be at the forefront or approaching it/ marketing it the right way at a specific time. I think our aesthetic and our lifestyle/culture is really what sets us apart from other bands right now. We all come from completely different cultural backgrounds and 3 of us are first generation Americans playing in an "American Band." We are also a band that can go from playing post rock/metal shows to playing hip hop/R&B shows and still gather a good amount of respect from each crowd in attendance. It's the

"American Dream" (haha) which is what Dua, our singer recently called us.

When you first started writing and making music, did you set out for a specific genre or age group? Why or why not?

We had some thoughts on how to keep it sonically cohesive as far as what kind of guitar, drum, synth and bass tones we wanted to use which were definitely heavily influenced by a time period of music that we are all obsessed with, which was the 90's. R&B during that time period was so refreshing and was a huge influence on our sound. This combined with everyone's personal taste as far as some people being into hip hop, hardcore and/or metal and some people into funk, punk and/or Soul, whatever. It was a challenge creating a cohesive sound that was easy for listeners to wrap their ears around but also creating a sound that makes listeners question what our influences are based on hearing the sound. This was at first though. Our style and sound has definitely broadened since then.

How would you describe Bad Rabbits' writing process? Is it collaborative or not?

Yes, it is a collaborative effort. Everyone in the band has their strengths and weaknesses with songwriting, performing, and creating in general. Being a band for almost 10 years allows us to realize when one needs to take a step back or a step forward in certain situations and still contribute to the overall effort.

So you did a collab song with Travie McCoy. What was this experience like?

We've known Travie for a while now and he has always been a friend and supporter of the band. His band Gym Class Heroes played a show with my other band: Irepress, a while back in Boston and ever since we kept in touch and supported each others careers. We had been talking about collaborating for years but it was being held back by scheduling and politics but eventually we worked it out.

Continued >>

We actually weren't in the studio with him when he recorded his verse on "Girl I'm Like Damn!" due to timing issues. He laid his verse down at STRESS the WhiteBoys studio in Pennsylvania and sent us his verse and we all agreed that he nailed it.

While playing a show, what do you like to see from the crowd?

I like to see all types of crowds. I like the crowds that get wild and mosh, crowd surf, scream, dance, whatever. But I also like playing to "staring crowds" that have their arms crossed and are clearly very skeptical of what they are seeing. It forces us work harder on our performance.

Have you done any crazy or embarrassing things during a show? What happened?

Dua's ass usually hangs out during shows and since it's so hard to miss, there is usually a butt crack sweat mark on his boxers that appears halfway through the set. That is pretty embarrassing. Me, personally. I always embarrass myself on and off stage. Can't even keep track of that.

What has been your most memorable show that you've played? Was there any specific that made it so memorable?

Was there any specific that made it so memorable? SXSW @ PLUSH, Austin TX, March 2010, was by far my personal favorite. It was with some metal/post rock bands that we are friends with and it was wild. People were jumping off speakers, moshing,

noses were breaking, faces were bloody and overall the most haggard we all have ever been after playing almost 8 sets in 3-4 days.

Do you have any plans for the rest of 2011?

Yes. We are putting the final touches on our new album that was produced by Teddy Riley. We started a "Live Covers session" series which we cover some of our favorite songs and video/audio record them in our rehearsal space. First song we did so far was "Sextape" by Deftones. We will be out with Travie McCoy in the spring as well as touring all summer.



BENEFIT OF A DOUBT

Interview by Catherine Khom

SS: What are some things you guys like to do in your spare time?

Pat: Dance, watch sports

Chase: Watch the First 48

Connor: Collecting moon rocks

Eric: Youtube

SS: How did your band meet and what is different and unique about your band?

Connor: Pat and chase started jamming back in 2001 and then through out the years recruited Connor and Eric, to create what is now, Benefit of a Doubt.

Pat: Our energy is what makes us different and unique, when people come to see us they never leave disappointed. Also our sound makes us stand out amongst other bands.

SS: What is one special good deed you guys ever did?

Chase: We have played a bunch of charity shows, and we do whatever we can to help anyone out in a time of need.

SS: Did you guys ever felt pressured to sing a certain way or sing a certain song? How do you guys feel about that?

Pat: No, we've never felt pressured to do anything we didn't want to do.. We stay true to ourselves.

Eric: We keep it real!

SS: What do you guys think for aspiring bands that wants to go big in the music industry, do you think they have a chance in this economy?

Chase: anyone has a chance, all it takes is that one song, but you never know if you don't try, you have to take those chances.

SS: What were each member like when they were in high school?

Pat: Quarterback, smart guy.

Chase: Bookworm and played guitar by myself.

Eric: Captain of the AV club and did the morning announcements.

Connor: I did a lot of theatre.

SS: When you guys are in the studio, in FIVE words sums up how you feel about the whole studio process?

Pat: Inspired.

Chase: Driven.

Eric: Excitement.

Connor: Determination.

Band: Integrity.

SS: What do you guys feel about being able to tour all over the globe, one day?

Chase: it would be nothing less then a blessing.

Pat: a dream come true, getting to wake and do what you love everyday, nothing better.

SS: If you could bring anybody on tour with you in a split second, who would it be and why?

Pat: Theo Fleury, because he likes to party.

Eric: My mom, so she can clean for me.

Chase: Mark Wahlberg, so he can protect me.

Connor: Carrot Top, so he could teach me things.

SS: What are some funny moments you guys had when you first started off as a band?

Pat: Chase always thought his amp was broken, but he always forgot to plug in

SS: What are some places you would like to visit when you guys are on tour?

Connor: Well, we've done Canada a bunch of times, and some of the states, so I would love to go over to Ireland one day and play there.

Pat: Casablanca.

Chase: The Caribbean.

Eric: Thailand.

SS: What kind of musicians or bands influenced your band song writing process?

Chase: Anyone who writes lyrics for substance and music with a story, like the band Say Anything or Relient K.

SS: If you could be any character from a movie who would you be and why?

Pat: Rocky, because he overcame adversity.

Chase: Will Hunting, I admire intelligence.

Eric: John Travolta in Hair Spray, I admire a man with courage.

Connor: Stay Puff Marsh-mellow Man, no one messes with him, unless you cross the streams.

SS: What is your goal as a band you try to address your music to fans about?

Chase: You're not alone, we all go through rough times, no matter what life throws at you, you always have people to support you.

SS: What would you be doing now, if you guys were not in a band?

Pat: Playing College football.

Chase: Traveling.

Eric: A clown for hire.

Connor: Acting.

JAKE GERMANY

Interview by Cynthia Lam

How old were you when you first started playing music? What was your first instrument?

When I started middle school, my parents made me play the saxophone in the school band. I hated it so much but they wouldn't let me quit till I got to high school. So as soon as I finished middle school, I never touched that sax again and found a guitar...been playing since!

Is there something that you'd like to accomplish through music? Spread a message perhaps?

The message that I try to get across in my music is to love yourself. Everyone is always preaching about loving others and I'm totally for that but I don't feel like anyone can properly love others until they love and respect who they are first. People should know that they are worth so much more than they think.

So how would you say that you differ from other artists or bands who might be considered in your scene?

Because I am an acoustic solo artist, I unfortunately get placed in a really silly category with people that play songs that other people write about things that they've never experienced. I guess what sets me apart is that I'm not trying to be anything that I'm not. I'll be the first to tell anyone that I'm just a kid with a guitar trying to make music about what inspires me in hopes that others can somehow latch on to it and relate. I'm just trying to be as real as possible in everything that I do.

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

No, not really. On this new CD, I have a song that is loaded with some country sounding slide guitar, a song that is really heavy lyrically on the subject of divorce, a cute song about being in love, as well as a pretty pissed off song with a melodic chorus. I don't mean to make songs that are all so different, they all just come out the way that I feel them and I think that's more important. I don't have any age groups in mind either with my stuff but for some weird reason, older women really dig it. Haha.

You recently released a digital EP *Leftover*. What is the EP about? Is there a concept behind it that you hope listeners will grasp?

Yeah, the EP is called *Leftover* and I already lightly addressed the topic earlier, but it's about self-worth. I hate that people look for their worth in people, media, and the approval of others. I can't stress enough how much we are all worth and how lame it is to compare ourselves to others. So the key concept is basically that you are definitely not leftover by any means. You're worth so much.

What is your favorite song off the EP? What is the meaning behind it or what is the song about?

It's hard to pick a favorite. I guess I'd have to say "The Rest Is History" which is the single for the EP. It's a song about being in love and thinking about the future and what it takes to get there.

Is there something that ticks you off about the music industry?

Haha. There are plenty of things that frustrate me about the music industry but I think more than that, it's the music fans that tick me off. The industry is going to continue doing the same stuff forever but the listeners are the consumers here. The music fans can either be actual music fans or they can buy in to the industry and help it continually get worse for the actual artists. The fans have the power to buy records and pick which artists or bands are going to be successful. The record buying era is pretty much over and that has taken a big blow on musician's funding. Now labels and managements take money from the rest of artist's merch and other avenues of income because fans don't care to purchase records anymore. We can support music or cripple it.

How do you feel about the use of autotune in songs?

I know this is a big deal right now with people but I honestly don't care. Any radio hit has a touch of it whether its just correcting slight pitch problems or stuff like the abuse of it like T-Pain and others. It really doesn't bother me though. My new record doesn't have any autotune at all but on the other hand, I used to play bass for The Secret Handshake who used to use it at a pretty high level.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

I just hope to be able to continue making music in hopes that people enjoy it for what it is.

TETRARCH

Interview with Diamond
Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photo by Evan Dell

How did you come up with the name "Tetrarch"?

Josh (rhythm guitar/vocals) were actually in a history class in high school when we first heard the name. We thought it was cool and so we played a few shows under then name and it just stuck. It has a lot of meanings, but the meaning we liked was "the rule of four people". Since there's four members in the band we thought it fit nicely.

What would you say the writing and recording process for Tetrarch is like? Is it collaborative or not?

Generally, the writing process consist of me or josh bringing in a riff, or a whole song into the practice room, and we all kind of add in our input and build upon what either of us already had. We have found its better so jam out new material to see what sits best and what doesn't. Once we do that, we will demo the music on Logic and fix what we need to until we feel that it is complete.

Who are your biggest inspirations music wise? How have they influenced you?

Well, I am into all kinds of music, but as far as my playing is concerned some of my biggest influences are Kirk Hammett, Dave Mustain, Alexi Laiho, Matt Heafy, Corey Beaulieu, Nick Hipa, Jim Root, and many more. Its hard to narrow them down haha. All of these guitarist in my opinion, have influenced my playing and writing styles. They are guitarist that always write energetic riffs that make people just want to rock out and are not just technical, and that's what I am all about.

In your opinion, what is the music scene in Atlanta like?

The scene in Atlanta is a little tough for metal music when your band is just starting out. But you tend to do ok if you promote, and invite all

friends outs etc. Once you start building a fan base its like the snow balla effect. But its hard to get people interested in smaller bands in Atlanta. Just takes a little extra work.

Are there any local bands who are a big inspiration to you?

There is actually a band from here in Atlanta called "So Contagious". They are not a metal band by any means, more of a pop punk band, but I really respected the way they handled their business as a band. They always found ways to better themselves in the scene and get their fans involved in whatever they were partaking in. Sadly, they just recently parted ways, but I stay in contact with the drummer, Wesley Moore, and he is an awesome dude!

Is there a message that Tetrarch is trying to spread through music?

We just want to play music that people can relate to and have a good time. Bands like Metallica have always done a great job of this, and we want to carry the torch as well.

What has been your biggest accomplishment as a band?

That's a tough one! One thing I really am proud of is the fact that we have been able to find a lineup of people that really want to do this for the long haul. Since we are a young band, a lot of people's lives change around our age, and they decide on other things they want to do with their lives, but we have been able to continue with our initial goal, and work at it well. Also, our new EP coming out called, "The Will to Fight" is something that I am very proud of. It has not been released yet and wont be until March, but I feel like these songs are some of the best and most mature songs we have ever written, and I think everyone is going to really enjoy them!

Who are your favorite bands to play a show with? Why is this?

As far as local bands are concerned, I love this band called "The Bastard Suns". They are actually more of a punk/raggae band but when we play together its always such an awesome time and the fans dig the two different types of music in one show! There also a local band called "Dead to the World" that we always have a ton of fun with. As far as bigger bands are concerned, I think our favorite to play with have been Mutiny Within, and Black Tide. Both bands were super nice and made it a fun show!

What is the funniest thing that has happened during a rehearsal or playing a show?

Haha, for me it has to be when I fell on stage. I didn't think I would have my first stage fall this early but I did. I ran back to the drum riser to rock out with our drummer for a second during a packed hometown show, and as I went to turn around, I fell flat on my face in front of everyone. My wireless pack fell off and I bent a tuning peg on my Les Paul. But I just got up and laughed, fixed my wireless and kept going haha. Needless to say, no one has let me forget about it yet.

Where do you see yourself a couple years forward?

In a couple of years, I hope to be touring a lot around the world and just constantly working hard, and doing whatever we can to spread the word of the band!

THE MIRE

Interview by Robin Urbino
Interview by Cynthia Lam



What makes The Mire separate from different bands that would be considered "in your scene"?

I guess if we were to fit in with a "scene" in the UK right now it would be with the bands playing slower, sludge influenced heavy music, although we don't necessarily sound like a typical sludge band. Our songs are a lot shorter, we don't have any plodding fifteen minute epics. We also place a large emphasis on melodic vocals and the contrast between hard and soft parts within our songs. I think that's one of the defining characteristics of our band.

What did you set out to be when the band first started? Were you aiming for a specific genre or age group? Why or why not?

Prior to the band's formation I had been writing and recording a lot of atmospheric heavy stuff and The Mire was born out of the desire to make a real band out of some of these early ideas. As far as a target audience goes, the general feeling within the band has always been to write and play what we ourselves want to hear. We're very insular when it comes to writing.

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

I see it as a double-edged sword. On the one hand it undermines a band's potential to earn money and therefore make a living playing music, however it also gives smaller bands like us more exposure worldwide through niche music blogs and forums that share and host free download links. The day after our mini-album 'Volume: II' was released on iTunes I found a handful of blogs that were already hosting it for free download. At the end of the day if someone downloads our record, likes it and ends up buying a t-shirt then it's not so bad.

So you recently released Volume: II. How has the feedback from the album been so far?

It's been great so far, we're all very surprised and humbled to be getting positive reviews at this early stage of the band. I'm just psyched that people are discovering and enjoying our music.

What is your favourite track off the album, what's it about and why is it your favourite?

For me each song on Volume: II has something unique about it and choosing my favourite would be pretty hard. That said, I think the song 'Shadows' is one of Volume: II's standout tracks. It was satisfying to put together and I'm pleased with how it came out, really melodic but with big riffs and kind of a psychedelic vibe. As for what it's about, there's this weird narrative that ties all of the songs on Volume: I and II together, it's basically about a man of nobility who loses his beloved to tuberculosis, commits suicide via poisoning and walks the earth as an invisible wraith-like being for the rest of eternity. Each song tells a different chapter of the story through the lyrics and the music sets the tone.

Do you prefer writing and recording, or playing shows? Why?

Although playing live and touring is amazing, writing music will always be the thing that keeps us going and for me personally the recording process is also a big part of it too. I produced Volume: II at my home studio in Brighton and it was cool to be able to have that sort of control over the sound of the record, though for our next release, a full-length, we plan to go to a larger studio with a more established producer.

What do you think makes a good show?

To put on a good show a band needs to be totally in the zone, right there in the moment and feeling the music they're performing. The crowd definitely picks up on this energy and it

makes all the difference. As far as the crowd themselves go, the more open-minded the better. People willing to watch a band they've never heard of instead of smoking outside until the headliners are on tend to make it a good show for all involved. No one likes playing to an empty room.

In your opinion, which is the best social networking site to connect with fans?

A few years ago a lot of bands relied heavily on Myspace, but I think it's safe to say that these days Myspace is almost completely obsolete and I guess that's down to Facebook. We have a Facebook page and try to keep it updated, but I'm actually really into how Last.fm's community works. A lot of people have discovered our band through Last.fm and I appreciate the open, user-moderated structure of the site.

Is it important to you to keep in touch with fans? Why?

It's obviously very important for a band to stay in touch with their active fanbase and keep them in the loop, but with so many social networking tools available these days you can definitely overdo it. We're not into obnoxious self-promotion, pushing our music on as many people as possible, that's not really what we're about. Thankfully it seems like most of our listeners tend to seek us out and not the other way around.

Lastly, what does the future hold for The Mire?

We're currently writing a full length album and we're aiming to get out there this year and play as many shows as we can. Beyond that we just want to keep doing what we love.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

WOLVES AT THE GATE

What drew the band members together?

Like, how did you all become friends? Back in April of 2008, by the grace of God, He constructed our band with the right guys. We all met in college at Cedarville University in Ohio. Taking it back further, ever since I picked up guitar back in 2005 I had been writing, had a number of songs finished and had always wanted to start a band but the Lord made me wait until for the right guys so that the ministry of Wolves At The Gate could be effective. Simply put, in college I met these three other guys through God's intentional direction. I knew Ben and Jeremy from various different things in college and knew that they loved the Lord, liked good music, and were great at their instruments. One our first shows was a house show we played in town and Colin came by after hearing about the show and approached us after the show. He basically just asked if he could be in the band and he joined the band that night. It was awesome to see God's hand through all of it because all of WATG came together in a matter of a week.

In your opinion, what has been your biggest accomplishment?

Initially I think that we would all agree that the accomplishment of writing music we genuinely love. I guess the style of music we've adopted for ourselves is something we've always wanted to hear and somehow we've been able to capture that concept. But looking at the whole landscape of our history I

am just really proud that the band collectively has maintained the desire to give God the glory for any success and we've continued to focus on sharing the good news of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection.

How big of a part does Wolves At The Gate have on your life?

I would say that while we all still have jobs to make ends meet, Wolves At The Gate is a full-time operation. Amidst shows, writing, promoting, etc it takes a lot to remain focused on the mission of the Gospel that we desire to present and exemplify through our music. It's been awesome to grow together these past two years and see the band grow more and more while all of us are growing as men as well.

Do you consider being a musician a full-time career? Why or why not?

Not only is this something that we consider, but it really is a dream for all of. I would like to think that the majority of people really want to make a career out of what they love. I think part of what drives us too is that we all want to do something with our lives that is out of the ordinary and take a chance on pursuing something risky.

What are your favourite and least favourite parts about touring?

Our favorite parts of touring would have to be especially playing shows with friends, meeting

new people, visiting places we've never been, and simply performing. We love it. Least favorite parts: loading in, loading out...enough said.

When you were a kid what did you want to be when you grew up?

Well let me take you through the history of my occupational dreams. From the age of 1-5 I wanted to be a garbage man, then from 6-10 a G.I. Joe, then a professional soccer player in Europe, then I got real and decided I wanted to be an astronaut.

How would you describe Wolves At The Gate's live show?

Live shows are great because they make or break a band. Since we first started we really wanted our lives shows to be more than just 5-6 songs and a chance to sell merch. As a kid growing up we all loved going to shows and there were all things that we all remembered by seeing our favorite bands play live that we wanted to be able to do for people who come to see us play. We want people to leave a show we play with an experience that they will remember. We also desire that when people leave our shows they know that we play music so that people can hear that God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of humanity, rose from the grave conquering sin and death, so that we may have a relationship with God.

Continued >>

So you will be releasing a new EP "We Are The Ones" on January 31st. What is this EP about? Is there a concept behind it?

The title of the album correlates meaning behind the name Wolves At The Gate. The first track on the new album will clarify the meaning behind the EP, the name of our band, and our mission. I could just tell you what it means and how it correlates but instead you should just listen to the album to really get the full effect. The first and last songs (Vapors & Oh The Depths) deal with death and life. Although most believe that this life is all that we have to hold onto I wanted the first and last song to speak loosely of death because for the believer death has no hold on our lives for Jesus paid our debt of sin on the cross so that we may receive the gift of salvation. Both songs speak of earthly death while at the same time they dwell on the beauty of death in hope for eternity with our God and Saviour. Then, all of the songs in between are about enduring the pain and hardship that we experience while we live on this earth. In death through Christ we find life, through His death on the cross and the death of our old way of thinking putting faith in Christ Jesus' perfect work of redemption. So in turn the goal was to create an album that speaks of the beauties of a purposeful life serving Christ and joy in the knowledge that this life is not the end. We then hoped that this could give insight to those who have never put much thought into desiring a relationship with a gracious God.

What was the recording and writing process of this EP like?

Writing and recording this EP was quite an experience. Lots of coffee and all-niters fueled a good portion of the recording process but it was so rewarding to finally get these songs we've been working on

completed. This EP was a long time coming and it was such a great experience working with Tyler Smyth. He's been a good friend to us, we have such a great working relationship, and a good respect for each other. He was very patient and allowed us to experiment and take our time on every portion of the process. We are also so fortunate to know so many other musicians/bands in the area, namely Joe McFadden, the singer for the band This Love. He did us the honor of doing some guest vocals on our song "Oh The Depths" along with the rest of his band and a bunch of our friends who did the gang vocals at the end of the song for us. All in all it was a great blessing and a great time.

In your opinion, what song on this EP is the best? Or, which one is your favourite? Why is this?

I personally love "Oh The Depths" because it is the culmination of numerous things for us as a band. I think that it is one of the best representations of who we are as a band musically and what we believe in regards to the lyrics. We are really looking forward to playing this song live because of all the energy shifts and dynamics.

Is there any Wolves At The Gate lyrics that stand out to you and have a big meaning in your life? What are they?

The first song I think initially is the third track on our album "Heralds." This song is essentially about all of us as a band and our journey up until this point. All of my singing parts of the song are my prayers and conversations with God about the ministry of Wolves At The Gate and all of Colin's parts are how God responded to me through Scripture and biblical truths. The song is basically my conversations with God

checking to see if we truly are in this band for His glory and for His purpose. All of us have had to sacrifice many things for this band and "Heralds" captures the combination of what we have endured and how God has showed us that we will experience pain and suffering but it will all be to His glory.

In your opinion who is the most underrated musician/artist/band in the music industry? Why?

This is tough because I don't know who is underrated, but I'll name a couple. Closure In Moscow, they write really intelligent and difficult music. I love it because I can't put a name on their style. Norma Jean, a lot of people write them off because they're old school but people should definitely listen to their new album Meridional, it's awesome.

Do you have anything planned for the future after your CD release?

The plan is hit the road where we can and when we can, we are very excited by response we've gotten so far to the new music and it's open a lot of opportunities to play different areas. We also are working on an acoustic album that we will be releasing as well as a music that we filmed two weeks ago in Nashville with Scott Hansen. All these things should be coming to you in the next couple months.





STILL RINGS TRUE

Interview by Bianca Delicata

What was the most complicated part of your most recent tour?

The most complicated part of our last tour, which we just got home from Jan 15th, was definitely the van issues. We had fuel lines burst, tires blow out, (several times), and our entire exhaust system fall off/apart. By the end of the 15 day tour, we had racked up a little over \$1000 in van repairs. We even had one shitty place in NJ, (you know who you are!) actually steal our hitch off our van. So yeah, van problems... always, always suck.

In what ways does music inspire you?

I wouldn't say music 'inspires' me as much as it keeps me alive. It's gotten me through the insanity of growing up hard, it's gotten me through some very tough times in my life, and it's made the good times even better. I believe that music speaks to us in a way that not many things left in this world can. It's the one last form of art that is yet to be completely turned into a commodity. Therefore, it's still free at heart, and it still has the power to not only inspire people themselves, but inspire change, which is what we really need.

What is the story behind "What We Carry Inside"?

When we wrote the music for our record 'I Wouldn't Call This Living' and it came time to write lyrics, I felt that I needed to match the mood of the music with the words I was singing on it. That led to the themes (unity, rebellion, questioning authority) and almost generalized feel of the songs on that record. With 'what we carry inside' we wanted to write music that was more pointed in its attack, darker, aggressive.. designed to carry our message a little stronger. So as the music got darker, I was more able to single out certain ideas I wanted to get across and focus on them, rather than just kind of sweep large ideas all at once. So 'what we carry inside' is written about the realization that it's only us who keeps us in this position we're in in the world right now, and in our lives. There's a lot of other ways we can spend our days, and that's what this song tries to get at.

What's your favourite instrument that you own?

Definitely my mesa single rectifier. It's 50 watts, it's a beast, and it's sexy as hell. I've wanted one my whole life, but was always too poor to ever afford one. But thanks to having good luck for once, and even better friends, this one fell into my lap. Boo yah.

What bands do you personally listen to, and how do they influence your work?

I'm one of those 'old school' dudes who just completely shuns most new music. Almost everything has sucked for so long, I'm almost completely shut off from the new breed of punk rock/ hardcore. BUT, that doesn't mean I don't listen to bands.. I'm just still listening to the same stuff I have been for years: Comeback Kid, NOFX, Have Heart, A Wilhelm Scream, Black Flag, Op Ivy, Sublime, been getting into Defeater a lot lately. I still love rage. I'm kinda all over the place, but hardcore is where it's at for me. Once again, this music doesn't only influence us in writing our music, it's actually influenced the way I live my life, and the way I view the world and us in it.

What genre would you consider Still Rings True as?

No one likes this question. If I HAD to call it something, I'd go with melodic hardcore... two reasons: I feel like what we're saying is a message that's always been delivered through hardcore, at least real hardcore, from its birth. Secondly, even though a lot of people will say we're a 'pop punk' band.. those words have just turned into a dirty phrase for me. Today, they seem to represent mediocrity, a shitty mob mentality, and for the most part just generally bad music. No substance, no heart. So yeah, I try to shy away from that one as much as possible. But yeah, melodic hardcore. We like to sing, we like harmony, but we play music that's fast, aggressive, and socially conscious.

Do you consider yourself being in a band, a full-time job?

Without a doubt. Even though we're not quite 'full time' yet, we actually do more than a lot of full time bands we know. We play at least 6 to

10 shows a month, tour at least 4 or 5 times a year, and are constantly out doing weekends with other bands, releasing new records, and just generally staying on the grind. It's a 24/7 full time job. When you live in a world like we do, where you're whole life you're told doing what you love isn't possible, you end up finding out just how hard it is. The ONLY way to succeed at doing what you love is to give it your all, every single day, and never ever stop or slow down. If you keep working, shits gonna happen, you're gonna want to give up over and over, but if you just keep pushing, it starts to pay off.

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

Hopefully, and at least from what I've seen, our music tends to hit a little harder than your average packaged and produced product/ band. We mean what we say, we're addressing relevant issues that most young people our age don't get to discuss on a daily basis. You can see it in the intensity of the crowd at a home town show, or the reaction of people in the audience when we're on tour and have played somewhere we've never been before. When you put your entire life and heart into something, it tends to shine through to others.

What does Still Rings True hope to bring in 2011?

We have a lot of big plans in the works with our label, Third Time Lucky Rekords.. looking to do some bigger tours, play more shows, release another full length record late spring/early summer, and just keep pushing. We're always playing shows and touring, and always down to talk/hang/whatever, so come out and see us, chill with us, and have a good time. Support underground music, and keep your local scenes alive by going to shows and checking out every band playing.. trust me, it's worth it, you never know what you'll find.



Interview by Bianca Delicata

ESTATE

SS: What was the most complicated song to write on the new album?

Dan: In my opinion "Nuclear City" was the most complicated song we did for the album. We went to a pro studio called Signaturetone Studios, and tracked drums, guitar, bass and vocals. We then grabbed all the recordings and took them back to our home studio and proceeded to remix the entire song. It went through a bunch of versions before we hit upon the one we put on the album.

Josh: Agreed. N.C. has about 150 different renderings and we're still doing remixes of it.

SS: In what ways does music inspire you?

Dan: Music has been part of my life since day one. My dad listened to tons of great groups when I was growing up which heavily influenced my musical aesthetic. I enjoy that music takes place over time, much like how we experience our lives. It sets a pace for experiences, and colours my perception of the world around me.

Josh: I think I like the mysticism music allows. Other mediums can do the same thing but music gives the audience a huge chance to imagine their own things. Also, I think I get inspired by the fact that musicians dedicate a big chunk of their life to something besides a totally conventional life.

SS: What is the story behind "One Time Lover"?

Josh: No one really knows.

Dan: Its about how we all approach romantic relationships differently.

SS: What's your favourite instrument that you own?

Josh: Musical or...? I dig my PC and white fender P Bass.

Dan: I love my Stratocaster, my midi keyboard controller, and most importantly my computer. It wasn't until I started using computers for making music that I really experienced the magic of music.

SS: What bands do you personally listen to, and how do they influence your work?

Josh: So many to choose from. I'll just slam a few names out: Black Joy, Acos Coolkas, Gigamesh, The LIMIT, Sorcerer, Mtume, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Grum, Metro Area, Purple Flash. I think all these bands are really tuned into their production and use sounds that jump decades. Super new techniques mixed with drums from the 80's, moogs from the 70's, and trash can reverbed synth stabs from the mid 90's.

Dan: I love Torro Y Moi, Avalanches, Dam Funk, Casio Social Club, Tesla Boy, Phil Collins, Todd Rundgren, Ochre, Washed Out, Hall and Oats, Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Prince, Isley Brothers, Pink Floyd, Daft Punk, Ian Pooley, Mf Doom, First Touch, Joe Jackson, Thin Lizzy, B-52's, Weird Al, New Edition, Lemon jelly, Bonobo, Nightmares on Wax, Kruder and Dorfmeister, Amon Tobin, Aphex Twin, Herbaliser, The DJ Kicks Series, Jagga Jazzist, The Police, Warren G, Snoop Dog, Digable Planets, Sven Libek and a ton more!

SS: What genre would you consider Estate as?

Josh: Good question. Always struggle with this. Our label filed us under Nu Disco, and Dance I think. I can see that. To people who may not know much about our types of music, I end us describing Estate as Electro Funk with a bit of 80's Pop mixed in. I'll take any genre though. It all cool.

When did you begin taking music seriously as a full time job?

Dan: I would say it all started when I got sick of working for the man back in 2002. I quit my job as a pharma scientist and moved up to Minneapolis and met Josh and a bunch of other talented peeps. Its been a gradual build and we still have a long way to go. I still have to hustle every month with odd jobs to make sure the ends are met.

Josh: I wish it was my full time job. I need to afford my fancy eats I love so much and music isn't paying them bills yet.

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

Josh: Our target audience is anyone who may like us. We found older fans of the 80's and 18 year old fans of electro at our shows jammin' hard.

What do you hope to bring in 2011 for Estate?

Dan: We want to keep on doing remixes for our favorite groups and continue to refine our sound and live show. I would love to see more Estate videos, and remixes of our stuff by other groups. I'd also like to make it over to Europe and tour with our label mates.

MOLLY MOORE

Interview by Sarah Lozano



What are your favorite themes to write about?

really like writing angry, revenge songs. They definitely come the quickest...haha.

When you were younger did you write a lot of songs? What were they about?

I wrote a lot of poetry when I was younger that I would write melodies to. I'd write about the funniest things like fights with my parents or my friends, or having crushes on boys. I was very dramatic.

Not only are you a singer, but you also act. Do you favor music over acting?

I could never choose between the two. Both make me happy in such different ways, I really don't think I'd ever be able to give either up. Music helps me to face and deal with my problems while acting let's me escape them.

How would you explain your vocal style?

I definitely have a very pop sounding voice. I grew up doing musical theatre so I over-pronunciate a lot and I try and have as much emotion and feeling in my

vocal performance as possible. I think that can make or break a song.

What's the biggest goal for you right now as far as music goes?

Release an EP and tour... and gain as many fans as possible.

Is there a musical influence that people might find shocking?

I listen to some hardcore and metal. People are pretty shocked when they hear that... like Underoath, Job For a Cowboy, Dr. Acula etc.

What do you think was the best time for pop music?

The 80s' with it's Tiffany and Madonna Pop or the 90s' with Britney and Boy band? Honestly I LOVE late 90's/early millennium alternative pop rock. I love Alanis Morissette and Third Eye Blind and No Doubt and I think that was an amazing time for pop music.

What's your favorite song you've written and why?

I don't think I've written that song yet. I'm a perfectionist with myself and I'm never really satisfied with anything I do.

If I had to choose though, I'd probably choose Mr. Society, one of the first songs of mine I ever recorded. I just think the title and concept is the most original that I've written.

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

Ah! I would love to tour with Katy Perry, she's definitely somebody I look up to. I'd also really love to tour with Good Charlotte, or maybe Jack's Mannequin. There are so many bands I'd kill to tour with. Kate Voegele would be a dream. Taylor Swift. Or one of the disney princesses, Demi Lovato, Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez. They'd be really awesome too.

What came we expect from you in the next couple of months?

A new EP in the spring, some tour dates in the summer... keep an eye out, anything could happen!



Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photo by Dan Gluszak

NGHBRS

What sets NGHBRS different from other bands?

NGHBRS is not your average cookie cutter band. We are driven to create an honest raw and energetic sound. We strive to put on a live show that turns every head in the venue. We never play the same set twice. We want people to experience something while seeing us.

How old were you when you first started playing music? What was your first instrument?

I was 5 when I started playing Piano (Ian). I started my first band at 14.

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

Most of us grew up listening to bands like the Chili Peppers and Nirvana, mostly rock stuff. Those bands definitely have a huge impact on us to this day, but our influences are continually expanding. We listen to a lot of jazz and blues and even hip hop. It's important as a musician and an artist to have an appreciation for all types of music.

What has been the biggest challenge for NGHBRS to overcome? How did you overcome it?

Our biggest challenge has probably been trying to "break out" of the Long Island music scene. As proud as we are to be a part of it, we never wanted to feel stuck in it. From day one we made the conscious

decision to make sure that we're setting ourselves apart from the "scene." We've done this by working extremely hard to make our live show a unique experience and by adding elements of jazz into our music.

What inspires NGHBRS lyrically?

Life experiences and the creative mind, inspires NGHBRS lyrically. I write everyday. I read, watch movies, chat with friends, look at history.

To what extent is the internet a useful tool in helping with the growth of NGHBRS?

The internet has been one of the main ways our band has grown as much as it has. We often post creative videos to promote a show, announce a new song, or to just update our fans on what's going on. We've been fortunate enough to have fans who make posts about us, and have helped gain the interest of new fans.

When NGHBRS first started did you aim for a specific genre or age group? Why or why not?

We did not aim for anything, because we did not want to try to do anything, we just wanted to write the best songs that the four of us could write that caters to all of our strong points. That is NGHBRS. We combine all of our abilities and strengths.

What is your favourite thing to do on your downtime during tour?

As lame as it may sound, we like to pass the time by playing word games. We've had some epic Password battles between the 4 of us in the van. It can get pretty intense, and definitely makes a long drive feel quicker.

Do you have any "crazy" tour stories?

We really haven't toured for long amounts of time, but touring plans are in the works!

If you could collaborate with any bands or artists who would they be and why?

We would definitely love to collaborate with Mute Math and the Foo Fighters. Mute Math because they are one of the most creative bands out there right now, and Foo Fighters because they know how to rock. It would be a dream come to true to rock people's faces off with the Foo Fighters!

Are you trying to spread a message through music? What is it?

We want to make people feel. We want to have a listener connect to us through our live shows and studio albums.

What does the future hold for NGHBRS?

We plan to hit the road and tour as soon as possible, and continue to tour as long as we can. We're a very passionate bunch, and we are going to do everything in our power to share our music with everyone we possibly can!



Interview by Cynthia Lam

SAINTS OF VALORY

How did you come up with the band name "Saints Of Valory"?

The initial concept was born in honor of our drummer's (Gerard) mother, her name is Valerie.

What would you say has been your biggest accomplishment as a band?

Recording our debut record, "The Bright Lights" was a big one for us. It marked the beginning of something new and fresh & what has been a very exciting journey so far.

Who were your biggest inspirations music wise while growing up? Are they more or less the same today?

Being that we all grew up in different countries & come from different musical backgrounds it's hard to say. But here's a few records we all really enjoy:

Sams Town (The Killers)
Joshua Tree (U2)
Cosmic Egg (Wolfmother)
Youth and Young Manhood (KOL)
Origin of Symmetry (Muse)
I and Love and You (Avett Brothers)

What events or things in your life inspire you musically or lyrically?

Our band relies a lot on inspiration, so pretty much anything that impacts us could trigger a melody or lyric or sometimes just an idea.

Do you prefer playing shows or recording? Why is this?

We honestly really love both. The energy playing live to a sold out crowd is great and the thrill of creating & recording something completely new can be addicting.

Where is your favorite venue to play? What makes it the best?

"Madison Square Garden" for sure, just kidding.... we're not there yet, but so far Stubbs BBQ in Austin, TX. has been great every time, we love the energy in that place.

How would you describe Saints Of Valory's live show?

People have described our shows as "thrilling" and "electric" which is very cool because our goal has always been to make our performances memorable. We create a lot of energy between all of us onstage and being able to translate that to the crowd is an awesome experience.

What has been the craziest thing that's happened to you on stage?

Besides the fact that by the end of our last show we came very close to smashing our instruments there have been no major incidents to date.

As a band have you faced big challenges? How did you overcome these obstacles?

We're all pretty close & kinda like a little family so together we're able to knock down some pretty big walls. No doubt the road we're on has some serious roadblocks and we're challenged daily by all kinds of things. But I think we all enjoy being challenged and driving ourselves. We're also pretty hard on ourselves, but we think that has helped us move forward quickly and so far the results have been exceptional.

What are your thoughts on illegally downloading music? Do you see it being the downfall of the music scene?

No, we don't think it'll be the downfall of the music scene. We've always felt good music should be free and we live by that as much as they'll let us. We think there are many benefits to artists giving away their music especially nowadays. I mean charging a nominal delivery fee makes sense and seems fair. At the same time, we feel artists should be compensated for their work. So, it's a tricky one.

Apple Horse *Tuck me In, Woodsman*

By Juliette Chagnon



Apple Horse, like their interesting name they present an interesting sound with there music. Since 2008 they have been trying to create a new sound for the indie-folk sounds, and with their Ep *Tuck Me In, Woodsman* they reach closer to success. On their EP they include a song called "baby love" which reminds the listener of a past lover/ partner, they wish they were still with. Their album is on the better side, some of the things that make it better is how crisp and clear the vocals are, and easy to under stand, the way the instruments are all in the same key and how the back up vocals come in at just the right time. As a profound music lover I find this album to be great, even If i am not a folk-indie listener it's still really great. A few other songs featured on the Ep are Filthy halls and Devil's land. They give off the feel/sense of a 70's band trying to create a new world for people. As a profound music lover I find this album to be great, even if I am not a folk-indie listener it's still still an interesting sound, that everyone can get into.

Jake Germany *Leftover*

By Catherine Khom



This unique and young man really blew my mind away while I listened to his most played song on myspace called "Loss For Words". If you are a fan of Austin Gibbs, Christofer Drew, or Jack's Mannequin, you'd be a fan of Jake Germany. He is from Tyler, Texas and currently plays acoustic folk, and indie style music. He released Leftover that composes the artist growing into a more real and talented artist. Once you listen to one song from Leftover, you will want to listen to all of his songs. I think the acoustic feel into all of his songs off of Leftover really captivates the artists' true self and what he defines as music into every word off of his lyrics. His previous songs before Leftover was released were very upbeat and his vocals were on point. In my view, I think his voice is more original than those one man bands who only want fame. Every song he records truly has meaning that goes by it. I encourage all of you to take his music into consideration and purchase some of his songs!

Wolves At The Gate *We Are The Ones*

By Cynthia Lam



It seems like it's hard to find music that doesn't sound repetitive and like the same old now a days. Before you go and complain about how the music industry is slowly eroding take a listen to Wolves At The Gate's *We Are The Ones*. Wolves At The Gate is an extraordinary four piece rock and post-hardcore group from Ohio. Their latest release *We Are The Ones* is filled with good melodies as well as a variety between screams and singing. Songs such as "Heralds" and "Tonight My Son" will easily get stuck in your head. *We Are The Ones* truly shows how much potential and how talented Wolves At The Gates are. Be sure to be on a lookout for Wolves At The Gate in 2011, they are bound to have exciting things planned for the near future!



Aria Self-Titled

By Catherine Khom

Like there haven't been enough female lead singer bands? Well, as of this brand new hear here is one to keep your eyes out for... Aria! My first impression of this band was that they were going to be mixed pop with a direction. Aria is currently from both sides of the Canada and USA border who plays pop rock music. It is the most unique band that I have ever come across listening to, and their songs are meaningful with the banging beat of the drums and strong vocals from Bianca Dyrland who gives the true definition voice for this band. Their self-titled EP is released and let me just say, for a band from both Canada and the US they are very talented at skilled at the instruments and sound like they hold as a band. They sound a mixed between an pop band with an edgy twist. For fans like VersaEmerge or Hey Monday, you'd like this band. Their song "Cold And Captive" is the most played on their Myspace page. The rhythms and lyrics makes up this band as a whole and watch out for them this year, their fan base is increasing as each play goes by.



Iron & Wine Kiss Each Other Clean

By Azaria Podplesky



Sam Bean, better known as Iron & Wine, is quite well-known in the folk scene, mostly for his soft voice and quiet acoustics. The world was introduced to a new Iron & Wine with the release of *Kiss Each Other Clean*, Bean's fourth album and first with Warner Bros. Records.

Not only is *Kiss Each Other Clean* more up tempo, it's louder too. The listener actually hears Bean's voice as he sings, truly sings, on each track, rather than his usual whisper-speak method of singing. It really is a nice change; this man can sing

Bean also experiments with different instruments on this album, another welcome change. "Rabbit Will Run" begins with Bean sounding a bit like a robot (in a good way) before being swept away in a wave of different percussion, while whistles and flutes close the track. "Big Burned Hand" starts with a saxophone and Bean singing through some sort of distorted microphone that makes the whole thing sound very 1920s-1930s. The saxophone returns at the end of the song with a groovy beat that you can't help but move to.



Kiss Each Other Clean is rounded out by "Your Fake Name is Good Enough," perhaps the most un-Iron & Wine-like song on the entire album. The song starts with a rumbling bass line, trumpets and trombones, a jazzy drumbeat and Bean singing the loudest he probably ever has. After a quiet interlude, Bean's voice is back, with distorted guitars and choral-like backing vocals to boot.

If you were expecting *The Shepherd's Dog Pt. 2*, then you will be disappointed by *Kiss Each Other Clean*. If you're open to hearing a new side of Iron & Wine, then this album will definitely put a smile on your face and make you appreciate the man behind the music even more.

By Bianca Delicata

Estate Sound In The Signals

Estate is composed of two friends from Minneapolis, MN with an idea. This idea was to entertain with organic sounds, dance-able beats, and smooth synths. With eight years under their belts, they've grown into the sound they've always wanted to become. Estate's most recent release, *Nuclear City EP*, contains six tracks that will most likely get you partying 'till the break of dawn.

Nuclear City begins with a calm, jazz-like song, "Blow J". Although the song is instrumental, its sound is quite familiar to MGMT and Daft Punk. Moving through the album, the pace picks up, and more energy is flowing. "Dancing Time" has a fun and positive feel to the song. Their concluding song, "Write To Make (Take You Out)" comes across as psychadelic, with a high tempo beat and catchy lyrics.



Overall, the guys of Estate had produced an energetic, and easy to listen to, EP. With eight years of hard work, comes success.

Young The Giant Self Titled



By Azaria Podplesky



California's own Young the Giant has had quite the ride these last two years. Formed in 2004 as The Jakes, the band won an online contest to open for Kings of Leon at the House of Blues in Chicago in January of 2009. Two months later, they were playing at SXSW and being featured on "The Real World." *Young the Giant*, released in January of 2011, is the band's first release since they signed to Roadrunner Records in August of 2009.

Lead single "My Body" is an up tempo song about giving in to things more powerful than yourself. In a world full of pop-punk, it was refreshing to hear an up tempo song that wasn't about dancing. Beginning with a lonely bass line, "Cough Syrup" quickly grows into a song that shows every other band out there that you don't need bells and whistles to make a great song. This is definitely one of the album's many standout tracks.

"Apartment" is another fast song, this time with lead vocalist Sameer Gadhia showing off the bluesy side of his vocals; another breath of fresh air in this scream-heavy world. The bands' talent really shines through on "12 Fingers." Jacob Tilley and Eric Cannata's soft but powerful guitar riffs, Payam Doostzadeh's constant bass lines and François Comtois's steady beat combine perfectly with Gadhia's impressive range to create another instant classic.

With twelve songs, most being longer than four minutes, *Young the Giant* is a long listen but the band makes every second worth it.

By Cynthia Lam

Sit Down Strikes EP



Sit Down Strikes is a four piece pop punk band from Baltimore, Maryland. Starting off with a good rhythm and a catchy intro the first listen will bring the listener engaged and interested in the band. "Stars at the RITZ" introduces the listener to Sit Down Strikes' pop punk roots and high energy music. Drawing influences from local bands such as All Time Low, they are sure to make their name known in the music scene this upcoming year.

Electric Drip Contrast

By Cynthia Lam



Hailing from Dallas, Texas is the high energy hip-pop duo of Kody Didier and Justin Gabrielli. Filled with beats that will hype up the listener in seconds we present you Electric Drip. They recently released a new mixtape EP named Contrast. Contrast is dance, pop, and hip-hop music at it's finest. Starting off with an intro that will get your blood flow pumping and anticipating what's to come the music suddenly bursts into the upbeat "Cali's Calling". This whole EP is filled with songs that will accompany you and your friends during your favourite night out. Contrast is put together in amazing fashion and your mind will be begging for it to be played on repeat.



Any comments? Feedback?

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And also to all of you who are reading this!

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