

Deushtown Music Festival Gets Better Every Year



Anthony Jardine of Some Kind of Animal finishes off a powerful performance at Deushtown Music Festival.

Randy Jarosz/Sound Scene Express

By Melanie Stangl

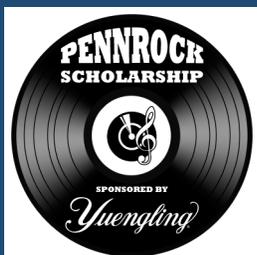
The fifth year of Deushtown Music Festival saw bigger crowds, more bands, and more fun surprises than ever before. Thousands packed the streets and poured into venues, from the conventional (such as James Street) to the decidedly less so (such as the Blacksmith Studio

and Artists Image Resource.) Food trucks, artists' booths, a secret Sofar Sounds set, children's activities, and a marching band rounded out the stage shows. Rock, pop, folk, singer-songwriter, country, experimental, metal, electronic, psychedelic, soul, and rap acts were all represented in the

lineup. And throughout the festival, up-and-comers and heavy hitters alike drew enthusiastic crowds, there for the love of their city and its music.

Deushtown 2017 ran smoothly and without incident (weather-related or otherwise.) None of

this would have been possible without the hard work of many dedicated volunteers, particularly Cody Walters, Ben Soltesz, Hugh Twyman, and Kevin Saftner. Congratulations, Pittsburgh, on yet another successful celebration of this great scene. Next up: Rock All Night Tour in Lawrenceville!



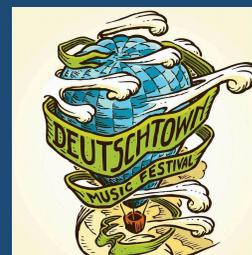
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Penn Rock Scholarship; Don't Call it a Battle of the Bands

By Kate Drozynski

The PennRock Scholarship is not a battle of the bands. Sure, it might have all of the basic components of one – several lesser-known local acts competing for a grand prize in front of a panel of judges – but don't call it that. In fact, Chris Groblewski, organizer of the event and owner of Supermonkey Recording Company, hates those things.

"I really couldn't stand those battles of the bands," he said. "I think they do a lot more damage to artists than actually helping them. The contest never seems to really be about the bands. I figured the only way to beat them, the only way to get rid of them, was to join them and do a better job."

That's how, four years ago, Groblewski and his mentor, Pittsburgh legend Pat DiCesare, decided to start the PennRock Scholarship. Rather than pitting musicians against one another for a meager monetary prize package, Penn Rock aims to foster relationships between bands, the music industry and the Pittsburgh music community. Over four nights in September and October, local and regional bands will play for the chance to win a prize package designed to give them a leg up in the industry.

"This contest isn't just about this contest," Groblewski said. "It's about finding great musicians to work with, great musicians in the Pittsburgh area, and help build them up. It's about giving them an opportunity to align themselves with a good team of people that have a vested interest in their success – at no expense to them."

The PennRock winner will get a record agreement for a four-song EP from Supermonkey, vinyl pressing, digital distribution, studio time, interviews, a photoshoot, gift cards and, of course, beer. And that's just what's lined up so far. Groblewski says he's always hustling to get more prizes.

"It's about creating opportunities and taking your band to the next level."

To get there, though, the bands that enter the competition need to be the "total package," according to Groblewski. The winner needs to have a tight live show, of course, with no weak links and room for antics or divas. In order to win the Penn Rock Scholarship, you have to be more than just a rock star.

"Are you easy to work with? Are you a good person?" Groblewski said. "Nobody wants to work with Axl Rose."

And, yes, you are going to have to sell some tickets. But unlike other contests, you're not going to be judged on the number of heads you bring to the show. What matters is that you hustle, that you have something to offer, that you put in the work. Groblewski has no time for artists unwilling to work as hard as he does to promote their shows.

"If you're lazy and you think you're great," he said, "you're not going to make it anywhere. It doesn't matter how good you are. No magical fairy is just going to show up and tap you on the shoulder and be like, 'Oh my gosh, you're such a genius. Can you please show the world your light?' It's not going to happen. You have to work hard. You have to hustle. You have to go out there and work harder than the

next guy."

That hard work can get you a long way, though, according to Groblewski. Last year's winner, Stone Wicked Souls, is wrapping up their record with Supermonkey. They tour all over the region and will be hosting the PennRock Scholarship finals on Oct. 7th at the Hard Rock Cafe. He's continued to work with the Dirty Charms after they won in 2015. He's even gone on to work with some of the acts that didn't make the cut.

"Even if you don't win, there's stuff that comes out of it that's really positive."

Groblewski wants the PennRock experience to be a positive one for bands and audience alike. He started including cover songs in the acts' short sets to bring a sense of unity and creativity to the shows. The audience loved it. They've covered the Beatles and Prince in past years, and this year each band will play a cover to honor Chris Cornell, who passed away in May.

Each act gets just 20 short minutes to perform the cover and three original songs to impress the judges. "No fluff. No filler. Give me your best stuff," Groblewski said. "Here's your opportunity to shine."

The competition is taking submissions via email until Aug. 15, so send over your best work, Groblewski said. From there, he and DiCesare will narrow down the best bands and get the fourth annual PennRock Scholarship started.

"I get goosebumps just thinking about it."

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Hear Tonight Convey Powerful Message in Official Video for "Stay Dry"

By Paige E. Owens

Following the release of their last official music video nearly a year ago, California, PA indie rock group, Hear Tonight, debuted their newest single, "Stay Dry," on Friday, July 21st. Hear Tonight is comprised of Shane Turner (vocals/acoustic), Stephen Grzenda (guitar/vocals), Jake Urbanek (guitar/ vocals), Evan Yester (drums/vocals), Nick Liner (bass guitar), and Greg Davis (keys/synth).

The song's upbeat vibe, bouncy beat, and catchy chorus act as an ironic juxtaposition compared to the depicted storyline that is neatly presented throughout the video, which was directed by Martin Jerome Lambert. Frontman Shane Turner, who stars as the video's lead, explores the darkness and negative space that looms in his head, while the world continues to go on around him.

Per Hear Tonight's official Facebook post, the band writes, "Stay Dry" exemplifies the mental struggles of loneliness and isolation even when others are right there with you."

The video begins with a close up shot of Turner sitting on the floor of a seemingly empty room, before panning out and transitioning into a party scene where he is still shown sitting on the floor by himself. Despite the rather optimistic sound of "Stay Dry," the lyrics reveal a darker theme that correlates with the video's overwhelming sense of loneliness and inner-frustration. As the setting of the room alternates back and forth between a party,

in which Turner is outwardly disassociated with the events that are unfolding around him, and the world that exists within his head, the lyrics deliver a similar message, "there's so much time to lose your mind."

Although it is easy to see the isolation that Turner experiences during the filmed party scene, it plays a secondary role as viewers watch him transition back into his thoughts. Here, he hangs photos of people, places, and his passions [music] on the fireplace of the empty room, before aggressively tearing them from the wall. This moment of "Stay Dry" symbolizes Turner's frustration with himself and disassociation from the things that he once cherished. For many, it can be difficult to show the same interest in the things you love while struggling with destruction, confusion, and loneliness.

The band also stated on their Facebook page, "It's okay to reach out. With all of the tragedies happening recently, we hold this message close to us." In light of recent misfortunes in the music scene and beyond, Hear Tonight's powerful message certainly pulls on some loose heart strings.

"Stay Dry" is the first single to be released from the band's upcoming EP, which is scheduled to be released this fall. "Stay Dry" is available for listen on YouTube, iTunes, Spotify, and Bandcamp.

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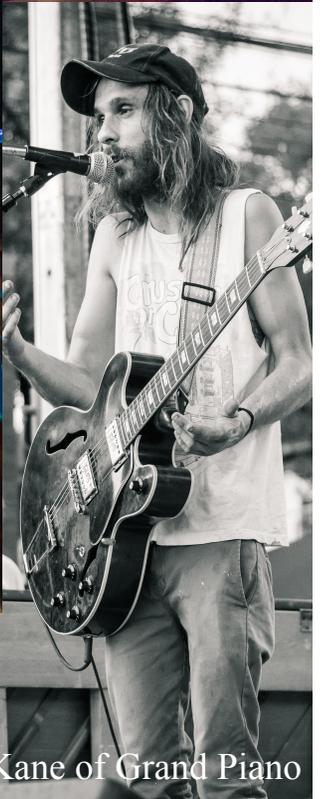
Emerson Jay - Dancing to Wreck Loose



Paddy the Wanderer



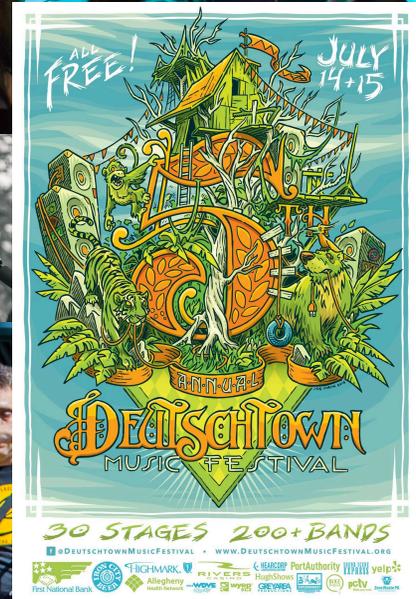
Nevada Color



Zack Kane of Grand Piano



Essential Machine

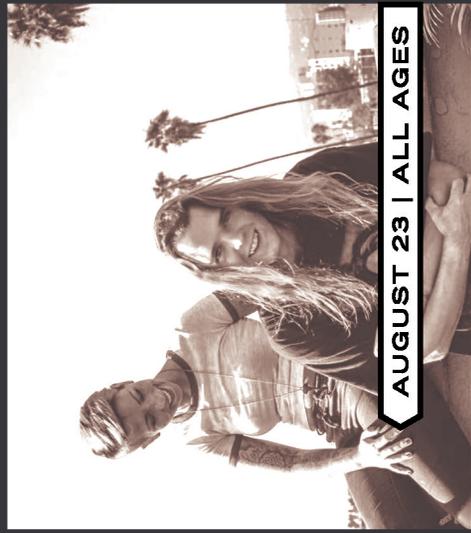


Pet Clinic



Colonel Eagleburger's Highstepping Goodtime Band

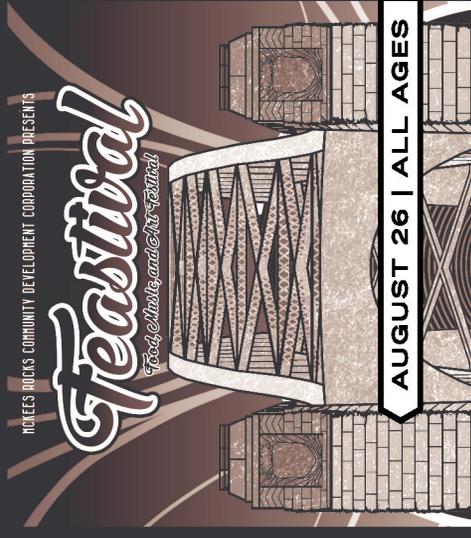
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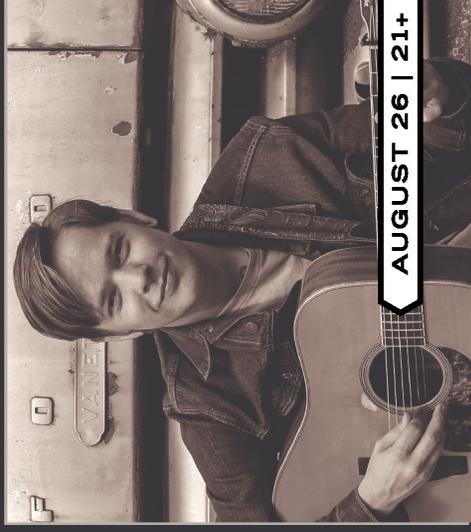
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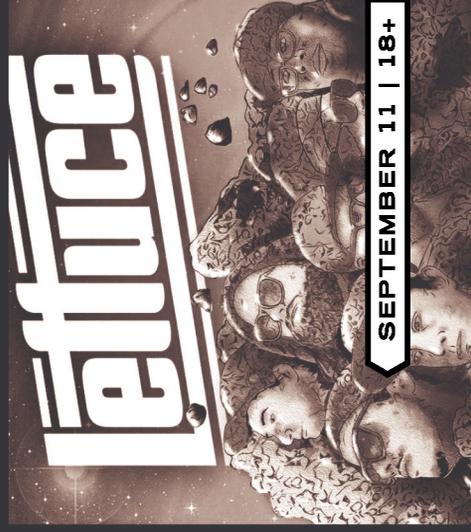


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- Aug 5 - Kayla Schureman - Regatta Point State Park
- Aug 5 - Chrome Moses & Working Breed - Dormont
- Aug 11 - Beauty Slap - Club Cafe
- Aug 11 - Cheerly Men - Funhouse at Mr. Smalls
- Aug 12 - Costume party- Starship Mantis - James St
- Aug 12 - Summer Recess - Spirit
- Aug 18 - Talkers & Honey - Cattivo
- Aug 19 - American Heart Association Benefit - James Street
- Aug 20 - Wreck Loose & MOIP - Shadyside Nursery

52 Weeks of Music: Going All In

By Katie Drozynsky

There are people in the world who fear commitment, and then there's Johnny Walylko, who has committed himself to writing and recording one song each week for the next full year. A whole 52 weeks of musical expression summed up in what he's calling Project 52. He's celebrating the start of the venture with a show at Club Café on July 14 and the release of the first song, "Don't Count Me Out," available on johnnywalylko.com.

"I feel like I'm a good writer," Walylko said, "but if I want to be a great writer, I have to put in a lot of time and push myself. [Project 52] is essentially a method to push myself into becoming a better writer, recording artist and performer altogether."

Project 52's first song marks the beginning of a yearlong effort in the spirit of summer. "Don't Count Me Out" is soaked in sunshine and simple acoustic guitar punctuated by hand claps and tuneful whistling.

Walylko's lyrics are at first almost pleading. "Keep me up at night / You're in my dreams / I'd

like to think I could do without you." But his unadorned guitar melody and classic singer-songwriter vocals, with just a hint of gravel to them, lend confidence to the tune. "It's only a matter of time before you're falling for the singer," he croons.

And he's right. Walylko has created an earworm perfect for listening to on a warm day while you crack a Summer Shandy. But summer doesn't last forever, and Project 52 will continue long into the fall (when Wall plans to make the move from Pittsburgh to Nashville), winter and spring. A lot can change in a year, and the project provides listeners the opportunity to hear the ways in which Walylko's songwriting will evolve.

Composing a song in a week is no simple task, either. Musicians can take months, even years to finish a tune to perfection, and even longer to record it. Walylko, however, sees those seven short days as a challenge. "I found that the best thing you can do as far as being a musician and making it in this career is just go out there and do it."

All of the songs from Project 52 will be available on his website, johnnywalylko.com, and eventually on iTunes and Spotify.

NEWS & NOTES

- Penn Rock Scholarship Submissions Now Open
- HughShows announces 2nd season of HughShows TV
- River's Edge online radio moves to Mr. Smalls as new home
- Lis Victory debuts The Broad Cast radio show on River's Edge
- Lawn Care releases new album, Replacement Therapy
- The Commonheart has gear stolen in Columbus, notify band with any info

BLAUNT 6TH ANNUAL 2017

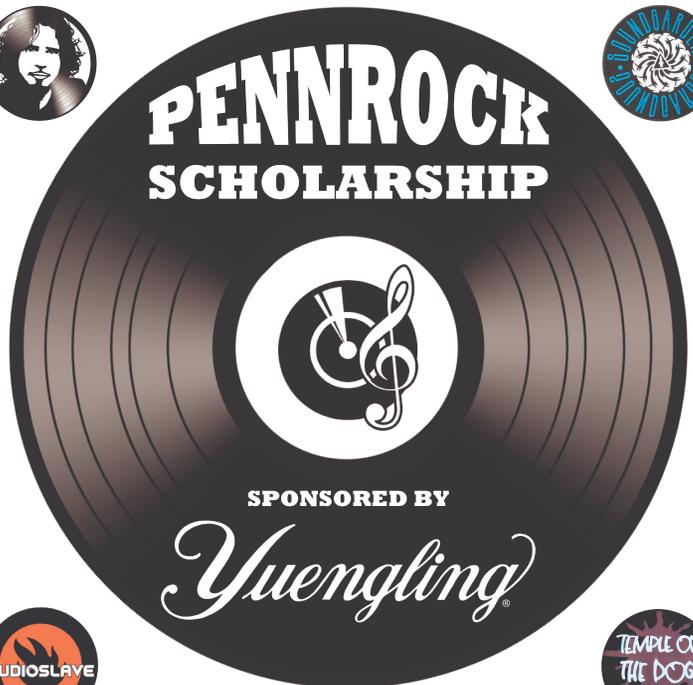


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THU AUG 3	NE-HI W THE VERNES & BIKINI ISLANDS
FRI AUG 4	91.3 WYEP PRESENTS THE WILD REEDS W ANGELA AUTUMN
SUN AUG 6	JEFF ROSENSTOCK W LAURA STEVENSON & DOG PARTY
TUE AUG 8	ROZWELL KID W CHRIS FARRAN, GREAT GRANDPA & SWISS ARMY
WED AUG 9	THE ROOSEVELTS (MR SMALLS PRESENTS / DRUSKY ENTERTAINMENT)
THU AUG 10	LEE BRINS III & THE GLORY FIRES W WINE AND SPIRIT BAND & THE LOPEZ
FRI AUG 11	THE CHEER'LY MEN
SAT AUG 12	NEVERWAKE, AXIS 5 (VA), WINTER'S DESCENT
SUN AUG 13	DURAND JONES & THE INDICATIONS
THU AUG 17	CHRIS JAMISON W JESSE DENARD & MIKE CALI
FRI AUG 18	THE HOMELESS GOSPEL CHOIR - NORMAL RECORD RELEASE SHOW W RUE & JACK SWING
SAT AUG 19	(EARLY) ARMY OF OPTIMISM
SAT AUG 19	(LATE) DAN BUBIEN & THE DELTA STRUTS
SUN AUG 20	7 MINUTES IN HEAVEN W THE MILLENIUM, BEARINGS, COLOURSHOW & VERTIGO
TUE AUG 22	BEHOLD THE BRAVE
FRI AUG 25	EMO & POP PUNK LIVE BAND KARAOKE (FEATURING THE EMO BAND)
SAT AUG 26	AFTERNOON - HAMILTUNES SINGALONG (CLOSED EVENING - PRIVATE PARTY)
SUN AUG 27	FASTLANE - M DOT / GA MIXTAPE RELEASE
TUE AUG 29	WILSEN
THU AUG 31	THE TOWN PANTS W BESS GREENBERG

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