

The Local Scene

with Ozone in the AM

GREETINGS fellow Zoners! This is Ozone in the AM from WHRW-FM 90.5 in Binghamton, also on the net at www.whrwfm.org. I am humbled and honored to write a column for the *Police Gazette*! I'm going to try to put a little spotlight on local bands and entertainment, highlighting one band a month, maybe two or three. Maybe no bands... strictly some artsy fartsy material. You on board? C'mon along for the ride!

This month I'm featuring a band from the northeast corner of Pennsylvania. "Sad Sorry" is a GREAT three-piece alternative/indie rock band I was lucky enough to catch live recently at the Battle of the Bands at Adriano's in JC. Why weren't you there? There were some great bands with a TON of energy during every set of music.

Part of the problem with local music is not enough people turn out for the actual gigs. I understand... kind of. Even at 53 I still get out and I'm darn glad I do! Our local music scene is happening! The energy exuded by the bands is simply an incredible experience; an experience everyone should have. And it's right here in the good old Triple Cities.

I had the chance to meet Steve and Jeff from Sad Sorry that night at the BoB gig. I try very hard to leave the artist alone at gigs; they need their space and I completely understand. But Steve and Jeff came over and introduced themselves after the Sad Sorry set. They are both very nice young men; both wickit solid players too. Yes, I said wickit not wicked. Wickit is way better/worse than wicked, depending how you look at it.

Jeff and Steve have been very helpful with my radio show. Local music can and SHOULD be played on local radio. I know the amount of hoops involved that commercial radio makes you jump through to get your music "on the air." WHRW is a non-commercial radio station. Always has been; I hope it always is. When I met Steve and Jeff they gave me their EP. If you listen to my radio show on WHRW, you've heard every track. I joke and say the songs are world premieres. Actually a lot of times the tracks I play are world premieres. Monday was the world premiere of the Sad Sorry song "The Curse of the Cast," played exclusively and only on WHRW-FM.

Sad Sorry consists of Jeff Fisk (guitar/vox), Cody Norris (bass/vox/acoustic axe), and Steve Smith (drums/percussion/backing vox) and they put on a KILLER live set. They like to do a lot of experimentation using different instruments not commonly found in this genre of music, which is way cool in my book. They have been known to experiment with—and not limited to—chimes, synths, keys, xylophone, loops, and the good old computer. Every song they do is an original. Some of their musical influences are Radiohead, Brand New, Angels and Airways, Blink 182, and Billy and the Smashing Pumpkins to name just a few. If you have listened to their music, you'll know that they do a lot of instrumentals and acoustics.

All Sad Sorry members have drive and a work ethic to try to get their band "signed." Ahhhh yes, the magic word: "signed." If there are any record labels out there reading this article, I'm telling you, check out the band Sad

Sorry. Tell 'em The Zoner sent you! I'll have to raise the bar if they are kind enough to come in to WHRW to do a Zoner exclusive interview. I guess the "commercial" radio station bought the band pizza?!?! You guys are killing me! Place your order now Sad Sorry; I got you.

Like most bands today, Sad Sorry are not always in the writing mode. They look to play as many live shows, for maximum exposure, as is humanly feasible. Steve told me a little about "being on the road." Being on the road is hard and can be a grind at times. I always wondered how Kiss (one of my favorite bands!) could play Cold Gin and R&R all night, every night for 35+ years. But when they look out into a crowd of 35,000 people mouthing every word to every song, that has got to be cool.

Sad Sorry continues to build a fanbase in our ever-changing music spectrum. If they continue to produce excellent music and the high energy shows, I think they'll do just fine! Sad Sorry has been getting a lot of airplay at the competition (ha ha) "rok out radio" www.rokoutradio.com and of course right here at home at WHRW-FM. And they're looking to get some spins from "neuregel radio" www.neuregelradio.com. They're deep into networking, being their own street team, and basically working on all the forms of promotion available to indie bands nowadays. I hope to see y'all at a Sad Sorry gig, coming soon to a town near you!

Tune in to Ozone in the AM, Monday mornings exclusively at WHRW-FM 90.5 Binghamton, NY, and www.whrwfm.org. Write to me at OzoneInTheAM@gmail.com. Send me music! Keep rockin' Southern Tier... and get out and check out some local bands.

Find Sad Sorry info at www.reverbnation.com/sadsorry and www.facebook.com/sadsorry.



MINDFUL MUSIC Tips from Dave Rice

Preparing Your Band for Recording

Your band is ready to go into the studio and record a demo after endless practicing, song writing, and perhaps some gigs. If you've arrived at this point for the first time there are a few things you may have overlooked when planning to make the most productive use of your time in a real studio.

First off, a solid tempo is essential to most forms of music. Use of a metronome is considered crucial by some, yet shunned by others; it's a question of different creative approaches. If your songs speed up or slow down intentionally then a metronome is not for you. But they can still be employed for individual parts of a song if the tempo changes are predictable. Dance, R&B, most forms of rock, and beat-driven music in general ironically owe every-

thing to the soulless beep of a computerized metronome. Don't let it be a surprise when your drummer is scorned for speeding up and slowing down during a live take! If you choose not to use a 'nome then don't expect it to be easy later to loop guitars, vocals etc. It's important to also rehearse with tempos in mind.... In cases of drummers with too much pride to "need" a click, simply duct taping a metronome to their head during practice should suffice.

Once a tight beat has been established it's time to think about how you're going to punch in over-dubs and back-up vocals. Oops! Too late. You should have thought about this before the process began while preparing in your rehearsal space. It's time consuming for engineers to insert click tracks for every last queue during instrumental or vocal overdubs, and it will save you a great deal of trouble to plan out your punch-ins in advance. Invent a way to keep time during parts of the song where the drums drop out, because it will be your greatest challenge to play over the material later with or without a reference track in the background.

Dave Rice owns and operates Basement Audio Recording Studio in Binghamton, NY.

Human Powered Aggression and The Weekday Escape Advance to Battle of Bands Finals SURVAY SAYS TO HEADLINE SHOW

Two bands received the same number of votes for first place in the last qualifying round of the Rock Your Scene Battle of the Bands—also sponsored by the *Police Gazette*—that took place at Adriano's March 16th. Human Powered Aggression and The Weekday Escape will compete against first-heat winner Prelude The Ruin, Saturday April 6th, again at Adriano's. The winner will receive prizes including a complimentary recording session at Basement Audio Recording Studio, promotion from Aesthetic Heart Promotions, and a headline show with Rock Your Scene. So come out and vote for your favorite! Among the hosts will be new *Police Gazette* columnist Ozone in the AM, and free prizes will be available for the crowd throughout the night.

Headlining the show will be Third Time Lucky Records recording artists Survay Says. Hailing from New Jersey, Survay Says is a seasoned ska/pop-punk band that guarantees a good time for all. Opening the show are guests Here's To The Heroes and Don't Wait Up, direct from Ohio. Start time is 9:00pm.



Courtesy of Sax On Fire