

## Prelude The Ruin Wins Battle of the Bands To Headline Special Show May 17th with Guest American Verse

The Rock Your Scene winter 2013 Battle of the Bands finals that took place at Adriano's in Johnson City on April 6th—partly sponsored by the *Police Gazette*—resulted in a win for Prelude The Ruin, who competed against previous-round winners Human Powered Aggression and The Weekday Escape. A great time was had by all at the show, which included special guest performers Here's To The Heroes, Don't Wait Up, and David Nguyen.

For their victory, Prelude The Ruin will receive free recording services from Basement Audio Recording Studio, promotional services

from Aesthetic Heart Promotions, and the headline slot at a special show May 17th that features American Verse, a fast-rising Massachusetts band signed to Better Days Records, Broken Rim Records, Ice Grill\$ Records, and Disconnect Disconnect Records.

The May 17th show will be at Adriano's on Floral Ave in Johnson City and will include an awards ceremony officially crowning Prelude The Ruin winner. Other guest bands include Late In The Playoffs out of Chicago and Philadelphia's Grip Of The Gods.

of Romando's live shows, we are in for a killer treat! Watch for a Romando show coming to you sometime in the near future! VIVA ROMANDO!!!

Get out and check out some local bands, and tune in to my radio show Monday mornings only at WHRW-FM 90.5 Binghamton or on the web at [www.whrwfm.org](http://www.whrwfm.org). Keep Rockin', Southern Tier!!

## The Local Scene

### with Ozone in the AM

Greetings fellow Zoners! Thanks for checking out this month's edition of "The Local Scene" with Ozone in the AM from WHRW-FM 90.5 in Binghamton, with a focus on local bands and community events. I've changed the title of my radio show to... drum roll please... "Local Music w/ Ozone in the AM." Took me quite a while to come up with that name?! Jimmy recommended it, so I picked it up and ran with it! Thanks Jim!! The name will most likely stick like... well, you know the rest.

This month I'm featuring a band from the Elmira area called Romando! VIVA ROMANDO!! That's their saying... pretty dang cool. Romando was founded in 2009 by Matthew Dishler (vox) and Ross Hafler (guitar), and joined by Joe Soprano (drums), Rory Haggerty (guitar), and Sam Hogan (bass). All band members are natives of "The Valley" area. From The Depths Entertainment is currently working with Romando to help release their EP. If you have listened to my radio show Mondays, you've received a healthy heapin' dose of Romando. The band seriously rocks! I've been playing their tunes Dancefloor, Untitled (which started out as a jam!), and So Far So Lonely. They gave me a copy of their EP, so stay tuned to the Zoner show for more rockin' Romando tunes!

Romando looks forward to continuing to bring their own brand of "Rock and Roll" to this area, and beyond. I would classify Romando as a progressive-rock type of band. If you truly know me you know I hate to put any band in a genre. I also hate people that use the word "hate." So, I highly disagree with putting a band in a genre.

I was lucky enough to have Matt and Ross in house at WHRW to do a little interview. One reason I would use prog rock is because when Matt and Ross and myself discussed song writing and structure and the like, Ross mentioned he wanted to reexamine and tinker with actual song structures. Go to the core, start from square one, with a clean slate as it were. I asked a little more about his song writing skills, and Ross didn't feel a need to comply with "normal thinking" when it comes to song structure. He's tired of the idea, and I COMPLETELY agree, that every song has to be a 1,4,5er... in music speak, with a traditional chorus, bridge, etc.

The "normal thinking" of writing songs has always been "questioned," for lack of better nomenclature, since the beginning of music. Turns out I myself have been a prog rocker since I began listening to music (in the early 60s!) to the best of my memory. For me, prog

rock was Yes, Camel, Dixie Dregs, Floyd, etc. I didn't care what genre it was in.... All I know is that I enjoyed the music.

If you listen to Romando's music, you will immediately get a sense of their exploratory approach. Writing songs is a band project, with everyone involved in the actual process of writing a song. Matt and Ross said that someone in the band will bring in the skeletal idea for a song, and they expand and extrapolate off of the skeletal ideas for an actual song. I coined a phrase at the interview that Ross forevermore from this day on is "Ross The Riffmeister!!" He said that he's been called much worse. You gotta love that!

I also enjoyed hearing from Ross that he goes straight out from his axe right into the amp. There's really no need (usually) for a huge rack of off-board effects. I didn't get into actual specifics of his make and models of guitars, but it was really refreshing to hear a guitar player that went straight from axe to amp. Well done Ross!!

I haven't had a chance to catch Romando live, as of yet, but just from The Zoner interview with Matt and Ross I could sense their energy. It was also rather refreshing to hear that the bandmates have such a huge sense of camaraderie and chemistry between them. Those musicians can be so damn temperamental! Seriously though, keeping a band's chemistry together is huge if you have any chance of making it in the music biz these days! Romando has nailed it in the chemistry department.

Matt, Ross, and I went on to discuss the state of local music and local bands. I pointed out that I contacted a TON... yeah, a TON!!!... of local bands to see if they wanted their band's music played on local, \*FM\* radio. Seems like a no brainer doesn't it? About a half dozen bands got back to me, Romando being very quick to respond. None of us could figure out why some local bands don't want any promotion? This is perplexing to all of us. So, what do we do folks? I would love to see many more live shows locally, right here in the Southern Tier!! Would you? Of course you would!

I can't wait to catch Romando LIVE. I'll guarantee that they're off the hook. The combination of the guitar tones of the two guitar players and the killer backbone of the band, the old percussion section... drums and bass... combine for a unique sound that makes Romando distinguishable! Bass and drums complete the picture. If the CD they gave me is any evidence



## MINDFUL MUSIC Tips from Dave Rice

### Monster in the Mix Identifying the Serial

#### Killer in Your Band

Have you ever played a show that hundreds of your fans attended? Did you make thousands of dollars playing a 30 minute set, or perhaps receive a standing ovation for a flawless performance of your brilliant original material? If this happened to you and seemed too good to be true, the sad truth is this: You are surrounded by heartless killers daily. Let's delve into this with an open mind, and forget all the misleading tips that have led your band to certain success and possibly a world tour.

Make sure your band consists of only your closest friends and family. It doesn't matter if they can sing or even own an instrument. What's important is that no outside influence ever penetrates the delicate fabric of your creative expression. People who are open to new music or art are prone to unpredictable changes in attitude and should not be trusted.

The love of one's instrument is a dead giveaway that something is not right with a band member. While the rest of the band is busy getting famous on social networking sites, a serial killer will silently sit in the corner alone, perfecting the songs that you are about to play live. This subtle trait is exposed at a gig. While you are hard at work singing the half of your lyrics that you can remember on the spot, a killer will embarrass you by making no noticeable mistakes. This should be viewed as a threat. Any musician displaying a special or extracurricular skill should be highly scrutinized.

Rehearsals should be sporadic and without point. Try not to fall into the routine of practicing once or twice a week on set days. This could result in a stable work schedule for your band, making it harder to spot the professional killer amongst you. Musicians should never acknowledge the passage of time, and stay ignorant to all others' schedules. Communicate with band members as little as possible regarding possible gig dates, rehearsal times, song ideas, etc. Red flags will be raised when certain members just seem to always be on time. Distract them with long rants about how quickly the band is growing in popularity. This will ensure that their thoughts drift less often to killing and rehearsing, and encourage them to lazily bask in the glow of all your shining accomplishments.

Dave Rice owns and operates Basement Audio Recording Studio in Binghamton, NY. Please send feedback, questions, suggestions for an article or your own tips to [BasementAudio@gmail.com](mailto:BasementAudio@gmail.com).