

# COMMUNITY in MUSIC

by Alex Capelli

## *The Founding of ForeDaze and Perspectives of the Bloomington Music Scene*

I remember the first gig I played vividly. I was nine years old and had been playing bass for less than a year. My band, LiveWire — a moniker that we came up with one day in practice — was buzzing with nervous excitement inside a lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose, an organization that was kind enough to have us. For the entirety of our set, I played my tiny short-scale Fender bass sitting down because it was too heavy for me to stand with comfortably. The fulfillment I felt being able to share my playing with people who listened with open arms was something my limited fourth-grade vocabulary could not describe at the time but I knew it was very special to me.

Nearly ten years later, as I played my first house show in Bloomington with my current band ForeDaze, I felt similar to the way I did that winter night in 2012. We had started practicing with each other only a few months before and now here we were, given a platform to play our music for people who were so eager to support and share the experience with us. Marty Abaddi, the rhythm guitarist and vocalist for ForeDaze, started taking guitar lessons when she was twelve and was introduced to the idea of writing her own music by a former teacher. After being in a band during high school, Abaddi was looking to form another, but was unsure of how to begin the process — the Bloomington music scene was still burdened by the effects of Covid. I was lucky enough to meet Marty through a mutual friend at a time when I too was looking to start a new band.

The formation of ForeDaze was very 'spur-of-the-moment,' as described by our guitarist, Ethan Williams, who has only been playing for a few years now. Before picking up the guitar, he played violin in high school orchestra.

"[That] definitely piqued my interest in the playing side of music because I've always loved music and listening to music."

Williams said of his high school violinist years.

Abaddi reached out to him to see if he would be interested in playing with us and with his affirmation, our strings section was complete. Carsen Outwater, our drummer, was a member of a handful of different groups before joining ForeDaze, the first of which being the reason he began playing the drums.

A guitarist and singer in Outwater's town were in search of a drummer to complete their cover of "Photograph" by Nickelback — a quest that ended when they met Carsen who informed them he was a drummer. Unbeknownst to them, Carsen Outwater did not, in fact, know how to play the drums and had to teach himself quickly in order to keep his word. Drumming has been a passion of his since. Some chance encounters, musical aspirations, and a Nickelback song, created ForeDaze: which was unofficially conceived in the spring of 2021. We started practicing together at the end of September that same year and have played around Bloomington since.

Through playing at the Blockhouse Bar, we have been able to meet and play with touring bands from various cities across the United States. Abaddi describes the value of these opportunities as a special place in music.

"Being able to meet people from all over the country, even just for a few hours, is a very special thing," Abaddi said. "You get to share this space of music and creativity and just honestly good vibes."

Ethan Williams reflects similarly to Abaddi, musing that ForeDaze has had the opportunity to meet so many great people that we never would have met had we not been a part of this music scene. The sense of community that the Bloomington music scene has provided is universal by all accounts.

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The first original song we completed as a band, "Right Time," was first written by Abaddi in the spring of 2020, during quarantine. Abaddi said that seeing how this song has changed since its conception has been a very cool experience and is a reminder of the opportunity for the possibilities of collaboration that come with writing music with others.

For Max DiFrisco of Westhead, an Indie-folk band focused in Bloomington and Chicago, writing music is a way for him to feel validity in his emotions, specifically, he finds the sharing of this process with others special.

"Music is all about community and sharing in the human experience." DiFrisco said. "There is nothing better than finding people that can help you expand upon things you struggle to say."

Westhead is just one of the amazing bands and artists we have had the pleasure of playing with since being a part of the music scene. Another band is Holumb, which formerly played in Bloomington as well. Bassist Kaedin Caine shares a similar sentiment to DiFrisco.

"Bloomington has provided me with confidence that I could pursue music as a serious career path. The progress and support we got with Holumb over just 10 months or so was insane."

This shared gratitude among musicians is what keeps the scene growing. DiFrisco shared that his "love for life would not be nearly as present if I wasn't a part of this scene," and Outwater adds that it has given him "memories that I'll be able to look back on later in my life and reminisce on."

Reese Wilson, drummer in Class Action, affirms that "the music scene gives me a place to express myself, as well as access to the types of people I enjoy surrounding myself with." Through its presence, I was able to meet my bandmates who have become some of my closest friends and I am thankful for them in ways that span beyond just the music we have been able to create together. The music scene and the collective appreciation for it is something I have been very lucky to be a part of, and I look forward to continuing to be involved with the moving parts and people that align in a uniquely beautiful way.

