

COMING UP: From Lady Gaga to Nineteen on the Park

Award-winning Collingwood rockers in fine 'state'

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

Lady Gaga and The Midway State were both newcomers to the music scene when they recorded a cover of Peter Dinklage and Kate Bush's Don't Give Up together in 2009.

It was never released but made its way to YouTube where it became a sensation.

Since that recording, Lady Gaga has shot to superstardom and this Collingwood band is well on its way.

They released their second CD, *Paris Or India*, last month and perform at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park Aug. 25.

IN HIGH DEMAND

"We're very excited about that performance," said Steven Foster, cultural facility and programming co-ordinator for the theatre, noting he did not think it would be possible to book the band because they are in such high demand.

The song came before album title, said drummer and band co-founder Daenen Bramberger, noting it was chosen as the title because it "reveals itself" and reflects the lyrical content and theme of the album.

"The album's about coming of age, my transition from boyhood to manhood," said singer Nathan Ferraro.

After graduating high school, Mr. Bramberger and Mr. Ferraro moved to Toronto to make a go at being professional musicians. A couple years later, the duo became a quartet when they added guitarist Mike Wise and bassist Mike Kirsh.

After playing a show in Toronto, entertainment lawyer Jason Kimelan asked the band members if he could manage them.

"Sure, why the hell not," Mr. Bramberger said of their response.

The rest is history, as the cliché goes.

In 2007, The Midway State released a four-song EP, *Met a Man on Top of the Hill*, and a year later their first full-length CD, *Holes*, came out, which included the song *Unaware*, which was featured on the TV show *The O.C.*

Rogers Wireless customers may also be familiar with another song from that CD. *Never Again* is used as the company's default ringback in Canada.

In 2009, the band received two Juno nominations, pop album of the year for *Holes*, songwriter of the year for Mr. Ferraro.

They were also named best new artist at the MuchMusic Video Awards that year.

The band has gone from booking their own tours, travelling across Canada in a beat-up old van that required weekly repairs and living together in a one-bedroom apartment, to touring throughout North America and Europe opening up for acts such as Jimmy Eat World, Third Eye Blind and K-OS.

"We're having the time of our lives," Mr. Bramberger said.

Although The Midway State's CDs all contain original material written by the band members who are now in their mid-20s, *Don't Give Up* is not their only cover.

Earlier this year, the band took part in a CBC TV showcase to promote its upcoming series *Cover Me Canada* in which Canadian musicians perform covers of well-known hits.

BRYAN ADAMS COVER

They covered Bryan Adams' *Run to You*.

"It can be fun to interpret someone else's art and make it your own," Mr. Bramberger said. "We don't spend a lot of time trying to emulate anybody. We're just trying to be the best us."




BOHDAN CHREPTAK PHOTO

The Midway State plays *Nineteen on the Park* Thursday night.

Tickets to the Aug. 25 show are \$20 and available at <http://nineteenonthePark.com> or by calling the box office at 905-640-2322. The Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park is

at 19 Civic Ave. on the south side of Main Street directly behind the clock tower.

For more information, go to <http://themidwaystate.blogspot.com>




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