

Soundcheck

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Northeast Ohio is not typically associated with a plethora of rising, skilled musicians capable of shifting boundaries and spurring innovation, regardless of it being home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Right within the boundaries of Lake Erie and Pennsylvania is an expansiveness of individuals moving forward in their craft and grasping possibilities with steadfastness. These instrumentalists and singer-songwriters are pushing a Midwest musical presence beyond our state, which tends to be ignored and sidelined all too quickly.

1 HONEYMOON

Sharing their time in the immediate, Kent and Norwalk, **HONEYMOON** speaks volumes to what it means to put time into something cared for, other than what relates directly to a student's area of academic study.

Austyn Benyak and Zac Breitbach, students at Kent State, alongside drummer Cody Doman and bass player Caleb Lacy began creating together as a continuation of a project that came to its finality at the end of last year.

Not disregarding what they are studying as valuable, they've found it salient to expel energy into work they hope to see continue past their time of graduation. On the subject of future intentions, Breitbach says that "every musician's dream is to get paid for their craft."

They've discovered their primary skillsets rest within the music industry, and they earnestly strive to improve the intricacies of those abilities for long-term prosperity to come. **HONEYMOON** feels proud of what they have accomplished in such a short span of time, but have learned to come to terms with some of the difficulties.

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We're a venue band, not a house band. Our noise volume is so loud.

— AUSTYN BENYAK

Finding their footing by playing live shows last August, their first show was held at Mahall's in Lakewood, a venue they've continued to frequent. Although they would ideally like to see the inner walls of prominent Kent house venues like The Workshope and The Hoe Garden, they are happy with where they are now.

"We're a venue band, not a house band," Benyak says. "Our noise volume is so loud."

They have cultivated a foundation of audio to be what they believe in. Their sound doesn't necessarily fit comfortably



1 From left to right, Austyn Benyak, Caleb Lacy, Zac Breitbach and Cody Doman.

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