

= Harry and the Potters =

Harry and the Potters are an American rock band known for spawning the genre of wizard rock . Founded in Norwood , Massachusetts in 2002 , the group is primarily composed of brothers Joe and Paul DeGeorge , who both perform under the persona of the title character from the Harry Potter book series . Harry and the Potters are known for their elaborate live performances , and have developed a cult following within the Harry Potter fandom .

The band is often backed up by musicians like Ernie Kim , Andrew MacLeay , Brad Mehlenbacher , John Clardy , Mike Gintz , Jacob Nathan , Ben Macri , Phillip Dickey , Jason Anderson and Zach Burba . Most of them played drums . The band 's most recent songs feature drummer Mike Harpring and bassist Paul Baribeau .

Since 2002 , Harry and the Potters have released three studio albums , three singles and three extended plays . The duo founded the independent record label Eskimo Laboratories , and appeared in the documentary films We Are Wizards and Wizard Rockumentary . They also co @-@ founded charity organisation The Harry Potter Alliance , and formed the Wizard Rock EP of the Month Club , an extended play syndicate .

= = History = =

= = = Formation (2002) = = =

The origins were quite accidental . In Cambridge , MA , Paul DeGeorge (born (1979 @-@ 06 @-@ 10) June 10 , 1979) was developing vaccines for a biotech firm as a chemical engineer . Paul had recently graduated from Tufts University . Outside the lab , Paul was a musician whose indie band ? The Secrets ? had toured in the northeast from 2001 to 2002 . To promote his band , Paul co @-@ founded a small indie label called Eskimo Laboratories . One of the other bands in Eskimo ? s stable of talent included a juvenile act called Ed in the Refridgerators [sic] , which was fronted by Paul 's 14 @-@ year @-@ old brother Joe . Joe DeGeorge (born (1987 @-@ 07 @-@ 04) July 4 , 1987) was a student at Norwood High School . He and his school friend Andrew MacLeay (A.K.A. Shaggy) had been playing in rock bands together since they were 11 and 12 years old . A couple of years earlier after reading the Harry Potter books , Paul formulated the premise for Harry and the Potters where the principle Harry Potter characters would be the musicians : Harry as the front man , Ron on guitar , Hermione on bass and Hagrid on drums . Then a crisis of sorts struck the brothers on June 22 , 2002 . During a barbecue at the DeGeorge family ? s Norwood Massachusetts home , Joe had advertised a concert with Ed and the Refridgerators and several other indie bands . The venue was the back yard shed . Perhaps the venue was too modest but while an audience had arrived , the bands did not . To rescue a nearly lost opportunity , while waiting hopefully for a band to show , Harry and the Potters came into existence over the next hour when the two brothers wrote seven Potter @-@ themed songs . They performed that first concert as Harry and the Potters for six people who remained of their audience . Of those seven backyard songs , six were to make it onto the band 's first album in 2003 .

= = = Harry and the Potters and Voldemort Can 't Stop the Rock ! (2003 ? 04) = = =

After recruiting drummer Ernie Kim , the band recorded their eponymous debut album over a weekend in the DeGeorge family living room . Released in June 2003 under the Eskimo Laboratories record label , the album contains six of the seven songs composed on June 22 , 2002 and another twelve written spontaneously and immediately thereafter recorded . In " the summer of " 2003 , Harry and the Potters set out on an American tour , performing at libraries . The fifth Harry Potter book ? Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix ? came out that summer and on June 21 , 2003 , the highly anticipated day of release , the band played five sets in a span of 24 hours . The library gigs drew crowds of mostly children and their parents . The brothers played a show at the

library in Dorchester , Massachusetts that August where they noticed the children in the audience singing along . Joe said , " Paul forgot the words to one of the songs . [The kids] were like , ' You sang it wrong ! ' " Paul said , " They 'd be like , ' Hey , why 'd you skip that song ? ' because they knew the exact sequence of the album . " The DeGeorge brothers quickly developed an on @-@ stage persona of dressing in the fashion of wizard @-@ school Hogwarts : white shirts under gray crew @-@ neck sweaters , red @-@ and @-@ yellow striped ties , wire @-@ rim glasses . In a show of quirky egalitarianism , both brothers play the role of Harry Potter and dress almost identically ; Paul is older and to conform to the character ' s persona , he is Harry of Year 7 ; while Joe is the Harry of Year 4 .

During May and June 2004 , the band worked on their next album , Voldemort Can 't Stop the Rock ! in the DeGeorge family shed . Following the release , the band toured heavily . The two brothers drove 13 @,@ 000 miles across the U.S and into Canada in their " Potter Mobile " , a silver 1998 Ford Windstar minivan with a black lightning bolt emblazoned on its hood . In live concerts , Paul and Joe used pre @-@ recorded backing tracks for much of the tour , but during the second half , Joe called on his childhood friend and former bandmate Andrew MacLeay to join the band temporarily as drummer . During the Voldemort Can 't Stop the Rock ! tour , Paul and Joe DeGeorge received a letter from Warner Brothers that stated that the brothers were breaking copyright laws . Although Paul sent a letter to Warner Brothers in an attempt to smooth things over , Marc Brandon , the company representative , asked to speak to Paul personally . The two later settled upon a Gentlemen 's agreement that , in essence , would allow Harry and the Potters to continue to sell music online and tour , but all other merchandise could only be sold at live shows .

= = = Harry and the Potters and the Power of Love (2005 ? 06) = = =

The following winter , the band began their first overseas tour . In February 2005 , they toured the United Kingdom ? playing London , Manchester , Milton Keynes , Chester , and Liverpool ? and then followed it by playing some gigs in the Netherlands to coincide with the release of the Dutch translation of Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince which took place in November 2005 . In the Netherlands , they played one of their earliest songs " Platform Nine and 3 / 4 " in Dutch . In late 2005 , Harry and the Potters enjoyed more tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek critical success from respectable quarters . The web based music ? zine Pitchfork Media even hailed Harry and the Potters as having one of the best five live shows in 2005 , quipping that " The Decemberists wish they could lit @-@ rock like this . " In the fall of 2005 , Joe entered Clark University in Worcester , Massachusetts . While Harry and the Potters play infrequently at rock clubs and other venues ? a Yule Ball at the Middle East Downstairs in Cambridge , MA in December 2005 attracted an audience of 600 with 200 turned away at the door

The previous year was the watershed when a joke between two colorblind , Massachusetts @-@ born brothers had developed into something they had never imagined . The band continued its odd success and toured early in the year with a new wave ' sock puppet rock band ' called Uncle Monsterface who opened for in March 2006 . During the summer , they embarked on their 3rd cross @-@ country summer tour (" Summer Reading and Rocking Tour 2006 ") , this time accompanied by fellow wizard rock band Draco and the Malfoys . Brad Mehlenbacher from Draco and the Malfoys handled drumming duties for the Potters for the entirety of their summer tour . They returned to home recording with the Harry and the Potters and the Power of Love but with a bigger sound and with the assistance recording veteran Kevin Micka . While in the earlier albums the band 's musical style was goofy inept pop @-@ punk , the single " Scarred for Life " became musically darker reflecting the penultimate book Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince . " Scarred for Life " ? s scenario takes as its central conceit a Harry Potter who has started a hardcore rock band . Paul and Joe departed from their proud DIY home recording and sought a studio for Scarred for Life " and their split single with the Zambonis . Paul and Joe DeGeorge feel that the songs on the " Scarred for Life " are among their " most badass songs . "

= = = Extended plays and film appearances (2007 ? 09) = = =

By 2007 , Harry and the Potters and their unexpected fan based indie music genre of wizard rock have grown into an international phenomenon . Recently , the band has engaged in charity side @-@ projects and activism within the Harry Potter community . In January 2007 , Harry and the Potters created the Wizard Rock EP of the Month Club , a mail order subscription club that released an extended play by a different wizard rock band each month . Reflecting wizard rock 's literacy focus , the club raises funds for First Book , a non @-@ profit organization that gives children the ability to read and own their first new books . In 2007 , the Club raised over \$ 13 @,@ 000 for the organization . They released their first extended play The Enchanted Ceiling in 2007 . May 2007 was also the beginning of their large 70 @-@ show summer @-@ library tour across the US and Canada called simply " Summer Tour 2007 " . Like their initial year in 2003 , the summer of 2007 would see the release of another Harry Potter book . Harry and the Potters scheduled the mid @-@ point of the tour to arrive back in their home state and celebrate the July 21 midnight release of the seventh book , Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows at Harvard Yard . The festivities became an excuse for a meet @-@ up of a number of wizard rock bands including The Hungarian Horntails and their nemesis Draco and the Malfoys which all played to a large crowd of Harry Potter fans in the Cambridge , Massachusetts college venue . Harry and the Potters resumed their tour which finally wound @-@ up in late August . In Vancouver on July 7 , 2007 , hundreds of people crowded outside the Vancouver Public Library to see Harry and the Potters . ABC News reported that the band usually charge \$ 5 to \$ 10 for tickets to their shows , though some performances are free . Harry and the Potters said 600 people turned out for a recent show , July 10 , 2007 , in Portland , Oregon .

In February 2008 , Harry and the Potters launched a website called Unlimited Enthusiasm . The website led users through a series of images and eventually to a forum , which contained much speculation concerning the nature of Unlimited Enthusiasm . Unlimited Enthusiasm ended up being the name of their Summer 2008 tour alongside bands Uncle Monsterface and Math The Band . Harry and the Potters undertook a summer tour , Unlimited Enthusiasm , with Math the Band , Uncle Monsterface and Jason Anderson . One of the stops in that tour was Nerdapalooza . This fall they released a short punk rock EP , In the Cupboard as part of the Wizard Rock EP of the Month Club . Two full @-@ length feature film projects documenting Harry and the Potters and the wizard rock movement , We Are Wizards and The Wizard Rockumentary , were released in 2008 .

The band played its 500th show in June 2009 at Norwood Elementary School (MA) the founding members ' hometown . The group continued the Wizard Rock EP of the Month Club in 2009 , and as a member of the club , they released their third extended play The Yule Ball EP , which featured a CD and a DVD of their performance at the Fourth Annual Yule Ball .

= = = Further career (2010 ? present) = = =

In April 2010 , the group announced a series of shows in the Midwestern United States , Scandinavia , and Ireland for July and August .

In Summer 2011 , Harry and the Potters embarked on another summer tour entitled , Ride The Lightning . The tour was to be the biggest since 2007 , playing dates all throughout the United States . The first show was held May 25 in Portland , ME and the last show was July 31 at the Knitting Factory in New York . Drummer Jacob Nathan played with the group throughout the tour . Jacob is a member of the band 926 Main Street Apt . 2 that he formed with Joe DeGeorge and Emily Barnett while attending college at Clark University "

In 2015 , Harry and the Potters released their third single " Hedwig Lives " for digital download .

= = Lyrical themes and style = =

Harry and the Potters couple their rough @-@ edged music with themed lyrics , which define the band as much as the costumes . The straight @-@ forward but quirky presentation of adolescent concerns and direness in the simplest of worries gives the songs their easy likeability . They poke fun at awkward situations from the books . For example , in the song " The Human Hosepipe " , they

sing , " Maybe you shouldn 't have brought up Cedric Diggory / Because I 'd rather not talk about your dead ex @-@ boyfriends over coffee . " Two other examples of the bands distinctive take on teenage angst are seen in the song " Save Ginny Weasley " where they sing , " Are you petrified of being petrified ? " and the song " The Godfather . " where the gothic or mock @-@ morbid line " Why do I always think that I am going to die ? " is sung to an up @-@ beat tune .

For the Harry Potter fandom , Harry and the Potters refer to words and phrases in the books , including Hogwarts , Harry 's Firebolt , Felix Felicis , the Flying Car , wizard chess , platform nine and three @-@ quarters , The Burrow , the three @-@ headed dog Fluffy , Mrs. Norris , the basilisk , The Marauder 's Map , various spells and incantations , and the Invisibility Cloak .

Harry and the Potters with its strong persona or theme is as much a performance art project as it is a rock band . Musically , they sound much like other indie rock music with the exception that the band adheres to a novel conceit : the Harry Potter books will inspire the lyrics . As Joe said in a 2005 interview , " We try to take the themes from the books and amplify them . " Their musical sound is described as " simple , catchy rock ? think The White Stripes crossed with Raffi ? where everyone sings along which is easy because in songs like ' Voldemort Can 't Stop the Rock ' the title is pretty much the only line . " Another reviewer ? s ear hears " a touch of the Ramones in their ultra simple lyrics . "

The band is organized quite simply with Paul and Joe playing their songs in a simple basic guitar @-@ synth @-@ and @-@ drums indie pop style and they sing in the semi @-@ deadpan way ; a review found the vocal delivery similar to that of They Might Be Giants . The raison d ? être of the band is to put enough energy and spirit into their songs to make them fun .

The band is not musically polished . Paul has joked that , if they had known of the band ? s popularity , they might have made " an effort to sing in tune . But it ? s hard to anticipate that sort of thing when you ? re just writing silly songs and recording them in your living room over a weekend . " . While musicianship is not the strength of the band , Paul says that the fans " know we 're not the best singers and keyboard players , but we 're okay . And they think , well , I could do that , too . I think that ? s really encouraging to people ... " Paul sees the brothers as a " bridge between this mainstream phenomena of Harry Potter and the indie rock underground . Plus , we ? re also pretty strong adherents to the DIY ideal . " The two brothers promote this ideal of making music independently and have fused the legions of fans on to the DIY free @-@ for @-@ all of indie rock and punk music , albeit of the silly kind .

The Washington Post describes the brothers as having vast quantities of both passion and ability to engage an audience : the " combination of their happy , who @-@ cares personalities and Harry Potter fanaticism has cast a spell over book @-@ loving teens across the country . " Paul said , " the band is neither geeky nor cool but ' geeky @-@ cool ' . I think the indie @-@ rock community at the very least realizes we 're taking a very DIY approach to this . "

= = Campaigning and activism = =

In 2005 the duo co @-@ founded the non @-@ profit organisation The Harry Potter Alliance with Andrew Slack , Seth Reibstein and Sarah Newberry , an organization that uses the Harry Potter books as a platform for inspiring real @-@ world activism , which amongst other activities , helps " wake the world up " to the genocide in Darfur . The projects invites its members to inform their local senator to support the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act . The Harry Potter Alliance raises awareness for these projects by holding wizard rock concerts and by selling memorabilia to help fund these campaigns .

Harry and the Potters have also collaborated the Harry Potter Alliance compilation album , Rocking Out Against Voldemedia with a song entitled ? Don ? t Believe It ? . The purpose of the album was to achieve the right to free press and against media consolidation by asking site viewers to contact their member of congress to support S 2332 , the " The Media Ownership Act of 2007 . " Paul said their third EP , the 2007 The Enchanted Ceiling was recorded in their living room .

Harry and the Potters actively promote literacy . Another example of this literary activism is the reference to Tipper Gore and the Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC) in the song " Voldemort

Can 't Stop The Rock , " which contains the verse , " And we won 't let the Dark Lord ruin our party / Just like Tipper Gore tried with the PMRC . "

= = Legacy and influence = =

Harry and the Potters have influenced similar acts , such as Draco and the Malfoys , The Whomping Willows and The Remus Lupins . Wizard rock bands generally play all @-@ ages shows at libraries , bookstores and schools , as the promotion of reading is a hallmark of the genre . In turn , because of their active promotion of literacy , young @-@ adult and teen librarians have been promoting the band . While Harry and the Potters would become notable for making libraries their primary venue , Joe DeGeorge did not see a future in the modest venues , " I think we thought we 'd play a few libraries . " Paul added , " We thought it would be short @-@ lived . We weren 't like super fans , so we didn 't understand this whole (Harry Potter) subculture when we started . " As The Washington Post wrote , " wizard rock is an escape into a different world ? a world of non @-@ judgmental fun where grown @-@ ups dress as wizards , evil is vanquished by song , and reading is cool . " The peculiar success of Harry and the Potters has led Paul to " sense a growing affection for us amongst other musicians " and at home . The Boston Phoenix has called Harry and the Potters the " Pink Floyd of Potterdom . "

In 2005 there was a tidal wave of new wizard rock bands . The brothers do @-@ it @-@ yourself musical ethos has caught on with bands forming as fellow Potter fans are picking up instruments for the first time . Like Harry and the Potters , these new bands also take on the persona , or dress as a Harry Potter @-@ themed character . Though most fans of the music are previous fans of Harry Potter , some bands have attracted listeners outside of the Harry Potter fanbase . Paul and Joe are aware of around 200 other Harry Potter @-@ related rock bands who at least record and post songs on the Internet . The Boston Phoenix wondered ? in spite of fully booked calendars ? how long wizard rock would last once there are no new stories to riff on , as their musical identity is contingent on the lasting success and popularity of a book series . " In some ways , " said Paul , " we want to tie things off and consider it a done deal . We ? ve always viewed this as a project that had a finite life and end point . "

= = Discography = =

Harry and the Potters (2003)

Voldemort Can 't Stop the Rock ! (2004)

Harry and the Potters and the Power of Love (2006)