



THE RON  JONSONS



Austin Young



Michael Butts

Spence Bailey

Josh Bailey





The Hartwell Sun (Nov 13th, 2008 Vol. 134, #22)

'Spreading the majesty of rock'

By Antonia Robinson
Staff writer

Spreading the majesty of rock is the goal of many groups, and The Ron Jonsons plan to do just that in Hart County and beyond.

The band was started by cousins Spence and Josh Bailey.

"It's always been kind of my dream of being in a rock band when in high school," Spence said. "It never came to reality until I and Josh went to a Def Leppard concert."

The cousins shared the same dream.

"I said are you ready to do this?" Spence said. "And we took it from there."

Their first gig was May 5, 2007, at the Green Bean Cafe.

Band members are Josh on bass and vocals, Spence on lead guitar and vocals, and friends Austin Young on keyboard/saxophone and vocals and Michael Butts on drums.

Spence is a junior at the University of Georgia, where Young will attend in January. Butts and Josh both graduated from Georgia Southern.

The original lineup included Bobby "Fun Bob" Hartley and Randy Vickery. The two went their separate ways, and Young and Butts soon joined.

The band's name pays homage to Ron Jonson, former Hart County High School band director.

The group used to practice in the school's band room. The night before their first performance they still didn't have a name.

"We were talking about it, and no names came up," Josh said.

Spence looked at the wall and saw a picture of Jonson and said "hey guys, how about the Ron Jonsons?" Josh said. "We've been The Ron Jonsons ever since."

Jonson himself loves the name.

"He's tickled by it," Josh said. "He's actually seen us perform too, and we've gotten his approval. We're very proud to honor him."

The Ron Jonsons play progressive rock. Their music incorporates different sounds with rock music, such as Latin or jazz influences,

"It's rock with a twist," Young said.

The main song writing machines for the band are Spence and Young.

Young says he just plays what sounds good when creating songs. He thinks about settings instead of feelings when working on a song.

"I like the feeling I get when I make a new song and know it's going to be number one some day," he said.

Spence says he draws inspiration from anything, whether it be from television or is as simple as shapes and colors.

Each person is very good at the instrument he plays, Butts said.

They are able to be creative in their music and give each other constructive feedback.

A strong camaraderie also keeps the band together.

"We're all really good friends and all have similar tastes and likes and dislikes," he said.

The band placed third at the Jombuss Battle of the Bands May 24. The group is now trying to break into the Athens music scene and from there play in college towns and eventually all of the southeast.

Young says the band offers something new and exciting to its listeners.

"It's the next era of music, we believe," he said.

Visit The Ron Jonsons' Web site for more band information: www.myspace.com/theronjonsons.

"We're not the Jonas Brothers or Hannah Montana. We're The Ron Jonsons," Josh said. "We're here to rock."

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Objective To play solid, quality rock music that is exquisitely diverse yet undeniably rock and roll.

Professional experience

The Mall of Georgia- Buford, GA
Tasty World- Athens, GA
Little Kings Shuffle Club- Athens, GA
Lonnie Burns Fine Arts Center- Hartwell, GA
Green Bean Coffee Café- Hartwell, GA
Jackson's Music- Buford, GA

Volunteer experience

Anderson Midnight Flight Road Race- Anderson, SC
Lake Hartwell Dam Run- Hartwell, GA
Darfur Awareness Concert- Statesboro, GA
Hartwell Run Over Violence- Hartwell, GA

Copyrights

“Had Enough”
“Night Ride”
“The Wall”

References

George-Anne Daily- Statesboro, GA (April 7th, 2008 Vol. 81, Issue 2)
The Hartwell Sun (Nov 13th, 2008 Vol. 134, #22)

Awards received

Placed 3rd at Cars & Guitars Under the Stars/ Battle of the Bands (2008)- Hartwell, GA
Placed 2nd at Cars & Guitars Under the Stars/ Battle of the Bands (2009)- Hartwell, GA

Track record

Our demo CDs have been placed into the hands of over 500 fans.