

Blaise Streets Band to blaze the stage during Founders Day Street Dance

Written by Janna Ross

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It all started with sibling rivalry... well, kind of.

"I was 21 years old and my twin, Blair, joined the Air Force. I thought, man, he is doing something with his life. At the time I was at IUS on a Theater Scholarship. But I wanted to learn to play the guitar," Blaise Streets stated about how his ride started.

Blaise Streets, 25, is the lead singer of the Blaise Streets Band. The band will highlight this year's Founders Day Street Dance and BBQ set for this Saturday on the square in Charlestown.

Blaise has started a ride of his life as he pursues in passion of entertaining on stage and writing his own music.

While working at a call center he would sit and play the guitar. As he learned to play the guitar he was just trying to impress his ex-girlfriend.

"I learned to play the guitar on my ex-girlfriend's Johnson guitar. It was bad. My fingers would be bleeding and everything. I was trying to impress her (ex-girlfriend) and be like look what I learned this week," Blaise added.

His guitar lessons continued as he took lessons from Kevin Rees. After some lessons, Kevin asked Blaise the question that would give him the opportunity he was seeking. "Do you want to start a band together?," Kevin asked Blaise.

"Kevin is a great mentor and a great guy. We played out like two times a month at KingFish on the River. We played older songs and music. It was all standard music. I had to learn what they all already knew," Blaise said.

He added, "Kevin always told me that if you can stand on a street corner with you and just a

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guitar then you are ready to front a band.”

Blaise knew he was ready but just thought of this as a way to master his craft. Mastering his craft is somewhat hereditary.

Blaise’s love and passion for music is in his blood as his mother also loves music.

Blaise’s mother, Teri Bullock, sings back up harmony on his CDs and is also in the band at times.

As Blaise was mastering his craft, Kevin received an offer he could not pass up. Kevin was offered to fill in with a Jazz Band.

“Kevin told me I can’t continue with the band. I had to hard feelings. He had to do what was best for him,” Blaise stated. “But then I had to find something for me.”

After Kevin’s departure from the original band, Blaise took the opportunity to search for a new band. In the era of technology first, Blaise, a 2007 graduate of Silver Creek High School, did what any lead singer would do. He checked Craig’s List for a band looking for a lead singer.

“I searched Craig’s List. I contacted the guy. We talked for about two weeks about the audition. They needed a lead singer and guitarist,” Blaise recalled.

As fate would have it, Blaise was at the right place at the right time. He walked into a bar in Sellersburg and heard a band jamming on “Folsom Prison Blues.” Blaise described the sound of the band as “Honky Tonk Twang.” It was just what he was looking for.

Again, Blaise took to technology and searched a popular social media site for the lead guitarist,

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Casey Richardson, of the band he heard in Sellersburg.

“I just asked him if he would be interested in playing on a song,” Blaise added. “We talked through Facebook and then I finally met him at the audition for the band at Guitar Center in Louisville. We auditioned. I was just really anxious to get my name out there. I wanted to network and meet people with great connections.”

Blaise ended up deciding to fill in for Casey’s band but join the band he auditioned for. Although Casey decided to stay with his original band, Blaise was actually playing with two bands at one time.

“I kept thinking, these guys are talented. Casey is just phenomenal. Casey and his wife, Betty, were just married like a month before all this. So, this was all new to her also. All I kept thinking was how blessed I am. I was actually playing with two bands at one time,” Blaise stated.

Working with two bands at one time became a little much for Blaise and he made a tough decision. Blaise told the other band, after three rehearsals, he was going to join Casey’s band.

A decision that he has never regretted.

The decision to join Casey’s band is the path that led to the current Blaise Streets Band including Blaise, Casey Richardson as lead guitarist, Greg Lentz as lead guitarist, Lance Sorrels on drums and Randy Yeager on bass.

Blaise Streets Band has been blazing up the stage since December 2012. Just this year, Blaise Streets Band has opened for Parmalee and Gary Allan. The band also played the Chow Wagon during the Kentucky Derby Festival. They also played private parties at Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Derby and Oaks. Over Memorial Day weekend, Blaise Streets Band played three, four hour shows at French Lick Casino.

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Now Blaise Streets Band is preparing for the Founders Day Street Dance. The band will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. on the square in Charlestown.

“Every show is different. It is still a learning experience. I like to say we are high-energy honky tonk music at its best,” Blaise described the band’s style.

Blaise Streets Band fans will be excited to hear six original songs during the three hour show. The original songs will include “Party On”, “Darlin’ I Love You”, “Straight Up Redneck”, “Go With The Flow”, “Hold On Tight”, which will be the first single for the band, and Blaise’s newest original song, “Bring On The Sunshine.” The original songs will be performed throughout the three hour show this Saturday.

Fans will also be able to purchase new Blaise Streets Band t-shirts for \$20 each. The shirts are baseball shirts. Options include a white shirt with pink letters and sleeves or a gray shirt with black letters and sleeves.

Blaise loves the support of his fans and family. Blaise lives with his father, Jeff Streets, and has substantial support from his grandparents, Bob and Margaret Streets. He also has great support from his older brother, Alex.

“Alex and I work together. My day time job is Advanced Pest Elimination,” Blaise added. “But I won’t sing while I am working,” he added with a laugh.

For more information about Blaise Streets Band visit www.BlaiseStreets.com or like the band on Facebook, Blaise Streets Band. For booking information please e-mail booking@blaisestreets.com.

The Founders Day Street Dance will also feature Meadow Ryann and Friends from 7 to 8 p.m.

Earlier this year, Meadow was crowned Miss America’s Miss Collegiate South’s Outstanding

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Teen. Her platform, "Music With A Meaning" has developed the B1 Indie Artist Tour. In preparation for the state pageant Meadow continues to work on her platform locally. This appearance of Meadow Ryann and Friends will help with her platform. The artists performing on Saturday will include: Jackie Dee from "My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding", Ashley Ledrick, Jacob Resch and Meadow Ryann.

"Our message is to B1 who believes in yourself, B1 who leads, not follows, B1 who creates their own identity, B1 who stands for something, something good. I believe music is a great way to gain the youth's attention and promote positive feelings and make a difference in their lives," Meadow stated in her platform statement for the pageant.

Artists interested in performing as part of the B1 Indie Artist Tour should send an e-mail to b1indieartisttour@gmail.com.

For more information please visit the B1 Indie Artist Tour website B1indieartisttour.com.

Also performing during the Street Dance will be New Washington's Brady Meenach. He will perform from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Brady plays country legends to today's music by singing and playing guitar, mandolin and banjo. He plays his own originals and covers from multiple genres. Brady performs on the jamboree circuit as well as social events and private parties.

Entertainment for the evening will begin with the CBC Line Dancers and dance instructor Carol Newman from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

A BBQ dinner will also be available for purchase during the Street Dance. Boy Scout Troop 80 will begin serving BBQ dinners at 5 p.m.

The Founder's Day Street Dance is hosted and sponsored by the Charlestown Parks & Recreation Department and the Charlestown Beautification Committee.