

# UP AND COMERS

bands and artists you may not have heard of yet... but they have major potential and you get to read about them here, right before they make it big! And "Graduates" are musicians we highlighted in past issues whose careers, as we predicted, have really taken off!



## DUO QUATE: Jeff Buckley

By [Name]

Several self-released demo musician is keeping things first full length/live the Q.

He likes of Bobby Jeff Buckley, it's despite the many lagario plays, his reason of choice the Q is a fitting of what the go to the stage. The Q Café, over six shows in two ago captured the for his album. "At ending was just for to have something lead to laugh at."

"I had just started other Friday of the some new material same-base to work my PC and digital me to get the shows listened back to the ere was something

has since closed am was recorded, has come away erence with more bum. He may have as well with fellow re Hall and Dusty met while playing

return, Dave hopes again and in the has several ideas nd in his head. "I've seas and projects



## BAND: Shane Hall and TickleBomb Orchestra

By The Roycroft

He's one of the sweetest men in indie music these days and he's making friends by the hundreds through his original, sung-from-the-gut music, his love for frivolity and experimentation, and his charmingly boyish smile. His name is Shane Hall, 31, and he's the brains behind TickleBomb Orchestra.

"I'm obsessed with words that don't go together," Hall said, referring to the Orchestra's name. "Tickle and bomb. What could be better?"

The accomplished TickleBomb Orchestra, made up of Brian Del Signore on percussion, Justin Bowse on the keys, Jon Grey on electric guitar, Adam Trudel on bass guitar and vocals, and Hall on vocals and guitar, create a crazy and joyous celebration in all performance venues. From country fiddle and blues rhythms to experimental rock and hip hop, these boys know how to bring the variety that the crowd demands. But Hall is continuously at the forefront, acting as quality assurance and making certain that the lyrics and music exploding from the stage are three parts groove and two parts inspiration, with pure love running throughout.

Take their song "Enemy." It's so ditty with guts and chutzpah. Hall wails out the words with his whole heart exposed as the band gathers together a magical storm of bad baby bluesy-ness behind their maestro. There's a rock edge to this song - the drums and guitar lead the way almost as strongly as Hall and suddenly there is a perfect harmony of men and instruments before you.

Then you've got "Hard to Notice" - an epic piece that blends psychedelia with the stark emotional determination and tempo of a soldier's simple marching song. The piece builds as it goes, Hall's voice reaches new heights and the audience has no choice other than to let their hearts flutter in time with the beat.

The TickleBomb Orchestra is amazing to hear



## BAND: The Reach

By Alex Kantarelis

A new rock band is standing tall in Worcester, a city known more for its metal scene. Rock n' Roll fans please welcome - with open arms - The Reach, a Worcester based trio who like to keep things simple. As vocalist Ray Auger described it, "It's kind of a blend between classic rock, blues rock and modern rock. We're not trying to re-invent anything." But while they keep it simple, they also keep it catchy. "You'll be singing along by the 2nd chorus," Auger said.

Backing Auger's vocals are Will Highlands on guitar and Jimmy Carriere on drums. The band got their start this past October and have been playing live all over Worcester. The response has been great: "I see a lot of smiles, and a lot of people bobbing their heads," Auger said. "I know there is a lot of metal and progressive rock, and I think we've been a breath of fresh air," he added.

The band played live for 6 months before recording their demo, which Auger views as beneficial to the band's sound. "The best way to learn from your mistakes is to do it in front of a crowd," he said.

Auger gives credit to the right influences: AC/DC, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin, and "anything that sounds rock and roll," as he put it. And that's what gives them their edge. "We're not perfect, but we're rocking," he said.

The guys just recorded their first demo at a home studio and have it available at shows for free, a price that we just don't hear all that



## SOLO: Ashley Jordan

By Suzy Geets

When most 17 year olds get home from school, they watch TV, hang out with friends or hit the Internet to update their Facebook and Twitter pages. Not so much for Harvard, MA's Ashley Jordan - she hits the recording studio. Singing and playing the guitar since age 12, Ashley has blossomed into a well trained singer, songwriter - and chatting with her, I had to question her age: "Are you REALLY just 17?" She is poised and possesses the confidence and maturity of a Music City veteran... and this veteran writer sees her headed precisely in that direction.

In 2009, Ashley entered a "teen idol" competition for Central MA and was immediately noticed by the judges. She made her way to second place. One of the judges said of her talent, "I love you... and if you had a CD out to buy it in two seconds flat, you're an absolutely gorgeous musician. Beautiful voice - you're so unique and you're one of my favorites... ever! You are just phenomenal."

The impressive 12 song CD, Simple Love, spotlights TEN original Ashley Jordan songs and two "Ashley-zed" covers ("You are Not Alone" by R. Kelly and "When The Stars Go Blue" by Ryan Adams). The title track - a sweet-furns-saucy number (as are many of her songs) - accurately chronicles teenage tumult, Jordan explains. "Anyone can relate to these situations - family, friends or boyfriend - everyone is searching for that 'simple love' - nothing complicated where everything is perfect at the time, and it's NEVER going to be that way." "Why Can't You," for instance, is a "wannabe" love story that obviously comes from the heart. Recalls Ashley, "There was one guy I was infatuated with