



magnolia potpourri - lifestyles

The Clay Melton Band is set to perform at Main Street Crossing, Oct. 9

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Sixteen-year-old drummer Noah Coffelt, of Magnolia; Wes Arvin, 23, of the Woodlands, on the bass guitar and 15-year-old (June 16 was his birthday) guitar prodigy Clay Melton, of Cypress, make up the new Clay Melton Band. Wednesday night, June 17 was the band's first public performance at Dosey Doe's in The Woodlands.

Although Coffelt is brand new to the Texas blues/rock group and Arvin has been aboard only since January, the three play as if they've been together formed for quite some time. The first-ever band performance wasn't even until October 2008.

"Clay did not go public until last June," said Jack Melton, Clay's father. "We're coming up on our anniversary for the first time he sang in public."

Maybe it's their professionalism and their knowledge of music and of musicians that make them stand out. With many influences from a many varieties of genres the band has a truly unique Texas sound and stage presence. Being a young blues/rock band one might expect a more traditional sounding product, but on the contrary, this band has a sound of their own that they surely own.

Songs performed for LIVE: From The Potpourri included "Ike Shuffle," which was created for a Hurricane Ike recovery benefit (view Ike Shuffle on The Potpourri's web site); "This House," which made its debut during this mini concert; and "What I Feel," which the band wrote around this time last year.

The band agrees that the best part of playing live music is just being on stage. Where the energy is much different than practicing in a room, closed off to the world or in a studio where feedback is minimal, other than the request for another take and another followed by another.

"Just playing live music is great, there's nothing like it," Clay said. "Of course we're always gonna' bring our 'A' game."

He also said they believe that they should always elevate to the next level during a live performance since there is a different energy on stage. Arvin added, when they are onstage, with the audience interaction, if the audience responds well by going "crazy" that helps fuel the band where they can return the favor with a greater live musical performance.

Clay has played guitar since he was in his late eleventh year, Arvin has been playing since the young age of five, he is going on 18 years of playing the bass guitar and Coffelt has been behind the sticks for nine years.

When it comes to writing songs, the band spends a little writing time after every rehearsal, to trade ideas and just jam them out.



If you missed the Clay Melton Band perform at Dosey Doe's in The Woodlands check them out on Oct. 9 at Main Street Crossing in Tomball for an action packed, high octane Texas blues/rock show you will not soon forget.

"Clay's the master assembler though," Arvin said with Coffelt's concurrence. "He gets these ideas and spits out really cool solos."

Clay added, they come up with a lot of good ideas, but it's only very that they shop to later become real songs. They have five or six original songs that they perform live; and are in the early stages of their first recorded Extended Play album coming soon that is to include seven songs and one cover by Jimi Hendrix.

On Oct. 9 the Clay Melton Band is scheduled to perform their high octane show once again at Main Street Crossing in Tomball to commemorate the band's one year anniversary.

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