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Rock and Roll, New York City Style

The boys of Marwood broke from the boroughs to play in Paradise Friday night

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Marwood can say they successfully started on their New Year's resolution after they rocked out the Paradise Lounge Friday night. Their goal was to play more shows outside of their home base in New York City, and Boston was lucky to be one of the first to experience their fun and captivating sound in 2005. Just last year, the band played over 60 shows in front of huge crowds at popular clubs such as the Knitting Factory and the Mercury Lounge in the Big Apple.

The evening of Jan. 21, following a show by the Trachtenburg Family, saw Marwood live up to expectations as they filled the small venue with smiles, cheers and most importantly, good music.

They filled every song with energy and enthusiasm, mirrored by the audience.

"Everyone must have thought that I was so drunk," commented a sober fan after dancing the night away with her friends in front of the band's interactive performance.

Their most popular and catchy tune, "Souless," had even new fans singing along, while the more mellow songs such as "Bartender" translated relevant lyrics into harmonized rock and roll.

The intimate connection between the boys brings their individual musical talents together into one tenacious sound. London native Benji Rogers' melodic words and guitar-playing set the tone for guitarist Rob Overbey's cranking riffs. Brett Conti contributes his natural enthusiasm on the bass and Mike Talbot's versatility as a drummer is evident in the band's diverse rhythm. You wouldn't think that Talbot's personal preference is jazz as you watch him jam away with the rest of the band's rock beat.

So what do you get when you put them together? A strong voice leading the band through a connection to the music that can only compare to that of the Counting Crows and the entire canon of late-80s big hair rock. All of them attest to having hair longer than most girls at the show at one point in their lives.

With a four-hour drive back to New York ahead of them, the boys still took the time to share their goals, inspirations and funny stories from the road. There was consensus that the best thing about driving long distances is Burger King, and the worst thing by far is Roy Rogers.

Touring is nothing new for [Ben] Rogers, who accompanied his guitarist father on the road at a young age. His and the rest of the band's past musical accomplishments are all stories they would love to tell you over dinner if you happen to find yourself in N.Y.C., but what is most important is their unity as a band.

"Performing is when we are at our best," he said.

And in reference to the name of the band, they suggest that you watch an old British flick called *Withnail and I* to find out. Keep your eyes and ears open for more from these four genuinely fun guys.