

Heads in the Trees

A music co-op sounds right for Tree Cover lads.

Peter Durantine



From the tree top: Tree Cover bandmates rehearse in their basement studio. From left, Matthew Cossick on drums, Stephen Haas on bass, Jake Kauffman on computer and Caleb Cossick on keyboard.

Their generation was raised on sharing music from Internet downloads, but these twenty-somethings are trying to take the idea a bit further with cooperative record-producing and performing.

To hone their idea, Caleb Cossick, 23, Jake Kauffman, 23, and Stephen Haas, 20, are launching a label, Tree Cover Records. They are friends as well as roommates in the Camp Hill house where they also have their studio, relocated from a temporary station at Second City Church on Harrisburg's Verbeke Street.

The Harrisburg-area natives established Tree Cover in the summer of 2011 and now are working toward a goal (while also making a living at their day jobs) of releasing material

this year in digital format, as well as on CD and vinyl.

"The music cooperative is something we made up," Caleb said, noting the Internet has created perhaps too much of a global community. "With everything so dispersed, there's something beautiful about things local."

While pursuing organic creativity through collaboration—the

music and accompanying visuals develop from a collaborative effort—Tree Cover's trio also want to produce works more tangible than sharing music downloads.

Hence, their desire to produce music on what now seems ancient technology—vinyl records.

"The Internet is sort of a cloud," said Stephen, an artist as well as a musician who attends the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. He noted that vinyl is becoming popular "because you can hold it."

"That's one of our strong tenets, having value for the physical," said Caleb, a musician who studied computer science in college. "Something digital isn't real; it's

a mathematical interpretation of something that is real."

Don't get these guys wrong. They appreciate the Internet and accompanying technology as great tools for accessing, communicating, disseminating and distributing information, as well as for creating.

Indeed, Jake is the "electronic musician," Caleb said. "He tinkers on keyboards and synthesizers, but his real thing is arranging music on a computer."

But they are high-concept thinkers. They want to use the tools of technology to build under the Tree Cover label a local community of musicians and artists, intent on creating new forms of music by using a cooperative approach.

Stephen described it as "an organism that is living and breathing and always changing."

The young men of Tree Cover are still working out their concept, though they have been busy creating their own music. They plan to produce a manifesto describing the mission of the record label.

Meanwhile, they have a band, Uwue (pronounced you-woo), that performs regularly around the region, and they help organize the performances of other bands. So, watch for them both in front of—and behind—the scenes.

For more about Tree Cover, visit www.treecoverrecords.com or look for them on Facebook. Find the band, Uwue at www.hearuwue.com.

Barbershop Quartets to Deliver Valentines

Barbershop quartets from the Keystone Capital Chorus will deliver "Singing Valentines" to loved ones in the greater Harrisburg area on Feb. 14.

Along with singing a beautiful love song, a tuxedo-clad quartet will present a long-stemmed red rose, Hershey's Kisses and two tickets to the chorus' spring show, May 5, at Scottish Rite Auditorium in Harrisburg.

This year, eight quartets are prepared to deliver what in recent years has been as many as 100 "Singing Valentines."

The cost is \$40. Arrangements can be made by calling 717-730-0289 or through the chorus' website www.kccsing.com.

Community Day at Civil War Museum

The National Civil War Museum will hold a day of free admission on Feb. 18, sponsored by The Hershey Co.

At no cost, enjoy the museum's permanent collection in addition to special events, including local historian Lynn Blackston's one-woman show, Civil War era songs and actors portraying presidents Lincoln and Grant. Hershey's chocolate also will be available.

For a listing of activities, visit www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org or call 717-260-1861.

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Our Cover

Paul Vasiliades may be one of the best-known photographers working in the Harrisburg area today, shooting scenes from the ordinary to the artistic. This image, "Harrisburg Sunrise N. 4th," was captured in January of last year and shows a downtown Harrisburg street, which is familiar except for the haunting absence of traffic. A lone figure crosses the street, providing a glimpse into the daily routine that will enliven the street shortly. The mood is cold and isolated, yet, with the emerging daylight, still hopeful. Paul has assembled a large portfolio of work, including many shots of the Harrisburg area, which can be viewed and purchased online at www.pvasimages.com.

