

Just normal people, opening eyes

BY ADRIAN GOMEZ
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From the first beat of the drum to the deep twang of the bass — it begins.

Within their harmonies, there's a story.

And Albuquerque-based The Noms are ready to tell their story.

The pop/rock band is fairly new to the music scene, but has rapidly won over fans across the Duke City in less than two years.

"We didn't expect anything to happen this fast," Mike Mares said during a recent interview. "We're happy that the word is getting around about our music."

The Noms' story is simple.

In June 2009, friends Mares, Michelle Baumann, Greg Pisotti, Jesse Herrera and Josh Herrera, who all went to St. Pius X High School, decided to start a band.

"Having those friendships has really helped the band," Mares said. "We know what each other is like and we know how to vibe off of that."

The Noms' sound varies with each song. Sometimes it leads toward alternative, while other times it's very acoustic-guitar heavy.

"For me, I've been very inspired by Dave Matthews," Mares said. "We all have our musical tastes and we've been able to blend them together."

The Noms released a studio album in April, and it is available on iTunes and Amazon.com. Mares said prior to their recording session, Jesse Herrera had been the only person with recording experience.

"We were a little intimidated, but it worked out in the end," he said. "We went in there and blocked all of our feelings out. We wanted to get each song as perfect as we could."

Mares believes the band has been received so well because its songs



The Noms will perform at a benefit to honor a classmate who died in 2005.

The Noms

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16

WHERE: Stage 2 at St. Pius X High School, 5301 St. Joseph's Drive NW

HOW MUCH: \$10 at the door or visit www.thenomsmusic.com

relate to people.

"We write from our experiences, and we're just normal people," he said. "We're not shy when we pitch a song or perform, and the audience gets that. When it all comes down to it, we just write from our hearts."

Mares said he's proud to be from Albuquerque and hopes that big things are in store for the band.

"The music scene is pretty hard," he said. "We're lucky to be able to put Albuquerque on the map. When we play out of state, a lot of people are surprised to hear that we're from Albuquerque. So we're opening some eyes."

In loving memory

The Noms are using music for a good cause. On Thursday, Dec. 16, the band will take the stage to raise money for a Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Endowment Fund at St. Pius X High School.

Beaulieu, a 2005 graduate of St. Pius, died after a car accident in 2005. Mike Mares and Jesse Herrera were friends of Beaulieu's while at St. Pius.

"He was very into bird watching and environmental stuff," Mares said. "We wanted to put on this concert as a way of keeping his memory alive."

Mares said the band will perform songs that remind them of Beaulieu. "We're going to capture the great personality that Ryan had."



BEAULIEU:
Died in traffic accident

VENUE MENU