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Austin rock group Band of Heathens hits the stage at Jammin' Java

Band looks to play songs from new album in Vienna

By Will C. Franklin Staff Writer

With anything in life, change is always there. Whether it's with your job, your personal life or even your favorite pastime, change is an inevitable part of life.

Lots of things have changed over the past few years for rock group Band of Heathens. Regardless, the band is happy, healthy and together. They've also just released a new album, "Sunday Morning Record."

The Band of Heathens

When: 8 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna

Tickets: \$12-\$18

For information: 703-255-1566, jamminjava.com

Note: All advanced tickets will be entered into a lottery — four winners will be selected to win a signed copy of "Sunday Morning Record" from Band of Heathens.

The Band of Heathens will be playing on Wednesday at

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(From left) Richard Millsap, Ed Jurdi, Gordy Quist and Treavor Nealon make up The Band of Heathens, which will play Wednesday at Jammin' Java.

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Jammin' Java in Vienna.

Ed Jurdi, one of the founding members of the band, said putting "Sunday Morning Record" together was definitely different.

"I just think we spent a little more time on it," Jurdi said.

"Not necessarily on the tracking, but just in terms of the writing and compiling and putting the material together.

We kind of had a lot of things going on in the band ... so it kind of took a little longer to get everything together."

In 2011, another founding member of the group, Colin Brooks, decided it was time for him to leave and pursue a solo career. Shortly after that, bass player Seth Whitney said goodbye to the band, as well.

"Me and Gordy [Quist] sat down immediately and had a conversation where he looked at me and said, 'Are you still into this?' and I was like, 'Yeah, I was just about to ask you the same question,'" Jurdi said. "It was a pretty resounding yes after about six seconds. From there it became 'What are we going to do? How are we going to put this back together?'" That was a major concern for both of them, according to Jurdi, because they just weren't sure what the band was going to sound like.

"I think for us, and this has kind of been our approach to everything, we're just going to follow our nose and creative instincts, put together some players that we like and see what comes out of us," Jurdi said.

The guys started playing together in Austin, Texas, at venues like Momo's in 2005. Thanks to a misprint in a local

newspaper, the group that would have been named "The Good Time Supper Club," instead was referred to as "The Heathens." That name stuck and was one of the reasons the band didn't think they'd be where they are today. "We always joked when the band came out that people thought it was a death metal band," Jurdi said. "[The band was] basically a side project. We had a weekly gig in Austin and that's kind of how the band got started. I mean, there was no pressure to make a record or anything initially other than to get together and play music. That's the idea. Get together with people you enjoy and make the music you like to hear. That's what we did for a while. The band was really kind of able to create in a vacuum, which I think formed how we did everything going forward."

Jurdi said he hopes audiences and fans alike really find something they enjoy within "Sunday Morning Record."

"It's one of those things where I would be writing and performing music whether I was a recording artist or not," Jurdi said. "It's just something that's good for me on a soulful level. That being said, when you record [an album] and put it out, you hope that some of the experiences you had resonate with other people and they can relate to it."

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