June 20, 2017

Music students set to hit the ‘stage’

Edmonton – The first year of any post-secondary program is a whirlwind of activities, but for students in the Bachelor of Music in Jazz and Contemporary Popular Music program it’s a whole other animal – one that requires students to attend concerts and engage in the music community.

“In my first year, I was going to shows and meeting new people, and studying a lot,” says Lindon Carter, who is getting ready to graduate on Thursday, June 22. By the second year of the program Carter had teamed up with fellow classmates Sam Malowany, Ali Mirzaie, Eric Wilderman and Eric Doucet to form Carter and the Capitals.

“We all came from different musical backgrounds,” said Carter. “Eric’s a metal guitarist, our bassist Ali plays jazz, Eric is funky keyboard player, and our drummer Sam played in punk bands.” It didn’t take long for the group to develop their own sound – funk-pop fused with R&B. Soon after, the started booking gigs and going on summer tours.

“Balancing life as a student and a working musician is no easy feat,” said Wilderman. “Sometimes the band would play three gigs per week, and the late shows clashed with classes the following morning – my grades never slacked but I sure felt the stress in the busy times.”

Even though his childhood dream was to become a rock star, Carter wasn’t planning to study music after high school. He was ready to pursue a psychology degree until a friend in the music program convinced him to follow a different path. “He said if I wanted to do music, I had to commit myself,” says Carter. “I realized I couldn’t just do it on the side, if I really wanted to pursue a career in music I had to go all in.”

Four of the five band members will graduate from the music program and receive their degrees (bass player Mirzaie has another year to go) during the spring convocation ceremonies.

When: Thursday, June 22
Time: During the 9:30 a.m. ceremony

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