

The University Star | Texas State University

The Derailers to play last Summer Concert Series show

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By Charlotte Almazan
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Although The Derailers are veterans of the San Marcos Summer Concert Music Series, the final show on August 10 will introduce the band and their retro-style sound to many Texas State students.

After more than a decade of recording, touring and tackling roots music, the Derailers remain a popular band under the radar of mainstream music.

“I think our live show is where we shine. We’ve never been on the radio in a huge way,” said lead vocalist Brian Hofeldt. “I think through (touring) we honed our sound and the ability to entertain.”

An introduction to the Derailers’ music is more of an initiation into the supreme Texas music scene.

“In our world of more traditional country, people call us alternative country. Alternative country is generally edgier,” Hofeldt said. “Texas music is what I would call it more than country.”

The event organizer, the San Marcos Parks and Recreations Department, chose the Derailers to close out the free concert series based on the band’s previous success with attracting a local audience.

“With bands like the Derailers, we can expect up to 2000 people,” said Lisa Morris, the department’s recreation manager. “It’s a great band with a large fan base that folks in San Marcos really enjoy.”

Based out of Austin, the Derailers’ insurgent sound celebrates the classic honky-tonk styles of Buck Owens and Carl Perkins while channeling the likes of Roy Orbison and the Beatles.

“A lot of people tell us, ‘I don’t like country, but I like you guys’ ... I think (country’s) origin is white-man blues. We try to carry on that tradition,” Hofeldt said.

Not only is its brand of music well-crafted, but Derailers fans are eager to describe the band’s reputation as live performers.

“The Derailers are a nice, fun country-Americana band with a huge Texas following. Their live shows are very energetic. Brian is a really good lead singer and guitarist,” said Nancy Barnard, co-manager of the Sundance music store. “He’s a good showman.”

The Derailers’ latest album, *Soldier of Love*, produced by Rockabilly Hall of Fame member Buzz Cason, is named after a Beatles song of the same name.

“It was part of their early repertoire,” Hofeldt said. “They were really into American roots music”.

While students search for interesting sounds to add to their music library, the City of San Marcos can be trusted to bring genuine live music to the community.

“I am normally not a big fan of country music, but I really like the music that San Marcos brings here,” said sophomore education major Erin Crowe.

Catching the end of the summer concert series also means students can reap the benefits of live music in a community atmosphere.

“It feels more personal sometimes. In San Marcos, the (live shows) are more down-to-earth,” said pre-social work junior Elaine Schulz.

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