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reach 'And... their new album is a 'Revelation'

Michael Hammerfest

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THE MUSIC IS OUT THERE

By Nicky Baldrian

FRIED GOAT, are a southern rock, Americana, hard rock quintet from Augusta, Georgia, USA. They have a new sixteen track album out now called 'Rock N Roll Saves Lives' which runs in at just under sixty-five minutes long and is the bands third album.

Fried Goat are: Westy Bowen- vocals/guitar, Brian Brittingham- drums, Brian Heinbaugh- vocals/guitar/mandolin, Deke Wiggins- lead guitar/vocals, and Ruskin Yeargain- bass/vocals. Lead guitarist and singer Deke Wiggins: first memories of music were as a small kid listening to his mom play the piano. "She doesn't play anymore but she was really good back then," he adds. Growing up the kids did chores in the summer and if they did what they were supposed to do for a month they could get an album or five singles. "The first album I remember getting was The Rolling Stones 'Tattoo You' which I bought because I like the cover. I dug the music too. I was about 11-12 years old when MTV came to our town and I got hooked. I

loved all the big eighties acts: Hall & Oates, Van Halen, U2, John Cougar, Billy Idol, Prince, Duran, Michael Jackson. In about fifth grade or so I convinced my parents to buy me an electric guitar. I was terrible for several years but in high school started taking lessons from a guy not much older than me, Rod Kight, who would teach me note for note hard rock and classic rock songs. Then I started getting much better. I was in a few bands in the late nineties and then met Westy around 2006 or so and we started playing. Our first show as Fried Goat with drums and bass was on Nov 10, 2007 at the Red Lion Pub in Augusta, Georgia," explains Deke. Singer and guitarist Westy Bowen's mom sings and plays piano, guitar and ukulele. "My mom and I do a mean family harmony version of 'You Are My Sunshine'. My mom rocks. So I would say that my mom really got me into music from a very early age," he tells me. She would sing to the kids all the time when they were young. "I was writing songs in middle school, but they were basically shite – stuff like 'I'm a Country Boy Looking for a Country Girl' you know crap like that. I was also in high school chorus where I was asked to sing solos, so I was being given some good feedback on my singing then. But most of my musical taste growing up was country and pop. It wasn't until college that I was exposed to the kind of music that I really identify with like southern rock, jam, and singer-songwriter genres. In college is when I met Brian Heinbaugh too and we immediately formed an acoustic guitar band called the Barkers. We played a lot

of gigs while we were at Clemson University and then kept it going afterward as well. I also have been in a dozen or so bands over the years so I have tried to stay in the world of music as much as I could. Can't imagine it any other way," he expresses. Singer, guitarist, and mandolinist Brian Heinbaugh's mother and father made sure that the house was steeped in music. "My mom was a soprano soloist in the choir in Charlotte, North Carolina at Myers Park Presbyterian Church where I sat in the front row every Sunday so she could keep an eye on me," he explains to me. His parents were into opera, but his dad was most interested in anything Motown.

"As we got into the late seventies, I started hearing a bunch of the more pop oriented artists. As I grew older, I got involved with the middle, junior, and high school band - playing various wind instruments and learning theory. It wasn't until I attended college at Clemson University that I picked up my first guitar and started playing and singing and writing - which got me hooked. It was right after college that I decided to fund and cut my first album of songs. In the studio I realized I had a gift of songwriting and a feel for the creative process in general. I have been rocking ever

since," he smiles. Drummer Brian Brittingham got his first drum set when he was thirteen and that sparked his passion of playing music. He has played in several bands over the years in the Augusta and Athens, Georgia areas including In Like Flynn, Murrur (Tribute to REM), and Scarlet Begonia (Tribute to the Grateful Dead). "I started playing with Fried Goat in 2007. I have been friends with Deke for a long time and he asked me to come jam with his new neighbour Westy. We started playing mostly covers – a lot of Neil Young, Bob Dylan, other classic stuff and then slowly started adding original music," he tells me. Bassist and producer Ruskin Yeargain's parents' record collection is what got him into music. He used to listen to their Tom Jones, Elvis Presley, Boots Randolph, Roger Miller and Johnny Mathis albums as a kid. Then, I saw a television ad for a 4-record collection of Elvis Presley hits. I told my mom I had to have it and a few weeks later it arrived in the mail. From then on, I knew that I wanted to play music and entertain," explains Ruskin. "When I was probably 10, a kid brought his guitar over and I was amazed at how his fingers made chords. So, for my 12th birthday, I asked for a guitar and immediately started to learn chords. It wasn't too long after that I began writing my own songs. By the time I got to high school my tastes in music expanded to include hard rock, heavy metal and R&B. However, the event that cemented my interest in a musical career was a life-changing event that happened in Augusta, GA: The Van Halen 1980 Invasion Tour. It wasn't long after witnessing Van Halen's destruction of the Augusta Richmond-County Civic Center that I formed my own

band with my brother, and we began playing out a parties and youth events. I was hooked." The band's new album 'Rock N Roll Saves Lives' is Fried Goat's third album and is the natural progression of the band from their last self-titled record. The lads all write songs in different styles so all three of their records are very eclectic, which is again the case with 'Rock N Roll Saves Lives'. Brian Heinbaugh's songs tend to lean in a pop-rock direction, Westy's background is folk rock and improvisation, Deke tends to lean towards harder rock but also folk in some cases. "Brian Brittingham, our drummer, comes up with very creative parts and can take a song in a different direction that how it was originally written. Two songs in particular are the first tracks: 'LA Moon' and 'China Made Me'. Brian's big sounding drums on 'LA Moon' really made the song sound like a big rock song, which made it an easy choice for the opening track. His straightforward beat on 'China Made Me' was completely different than what I envisioned but it completely worked," explains Deke. "Ruskin Yeargain, who plays bass, produces and mixes our music, really captures our sound in a way that no matter the style of the song it always sounds like Fried Goat. Most of the songs lean toward up-tempo which we're better suited for. There are two covers out of the sixteen songs on the record. 'Make You Cry' is a song written by a very talented musician in my hometown of Augusta, Georgia and is a big rocker. We end the record with an acoustic cover of 'Light of Day', a Bruce Springsteen song that Joan Jett made famous in the eighties." The band have definitely hit on some styles

that we haven't previously heard on previous Fried Goat albums. 'Rest Again' is a track unlike any that they have done in the past. It's a –slow building track with no drums or bass initially and then ends with a big sounding chorus and long classic rock style guitar solo. "There are some love songs on this album, more so that anything on previous releases. One in particular, 'Anything', tells the story of a man who would who do anything to be with the love of his life. We haven't been so obvious lyrically on previous records.

'China Made Me' is based on a unique sounding jazz riff but played heavy on the guitars. Most of our older songs are more chord based so that's a departure from anything we've done in the past," explains Wiggins. "I sing lead for the first time on a Fried Goat record on 'Circus K', which is based on a true story about my observation lot of strange people acting very strange late night at a convenient store in Augusta, Georgia. One of the standout songs on the record is 'Long Goodbye', which references the title of the album and is a nod to the band's history. The song has a great sounding ragtime piano part which was played by Brian Brittingham's brother Michael Garrett that really drives the song. The song is unlike anything we've ever recorded." Growing up Wiggins' music inspirations were mostly rock bands with cool sounding guitars. Initially in the eighties Van Halen (not Van Hagar), Led Zeppelin,

Guns & Roses, Dire Straits were big influences on the young musician. In the late eighties he started to get into more alternative bands like REM, U2, Janes Addiction and the British punk band from the late 70s: Sex Pistols, The Clash, and especially Generation X. Lyrically I love singer-songwriters such as Dylan, Neil Young, JJ Cale, Gordon Lightfoot. Other influences are the classics such as The Beatles, Stones, The Who, Black Sabbath, Grateful Dead, Allman Brothers. "I also really took to the nineties Seattle bands especially Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. A lot of the songs I write follow a similar theme in trying to get out of a bad situation and/or looking at positive change moving forward," he expresses. "Two songs I wrote for this album that are little different are Rest Again and Circus K. Rest Again tells the true story of a US soldier in Vietnam who was on his death bed but was encouraged to not give up and fight for his life by a man he never met until forty six years later. He didn't know his name of who he was but met him forty-six years later and then felt he could finally rest again. 'Circus K' is based on a fifteen-minute moment in time that I spent late night in a convenient store in Augusta, Georgia where people were acting bizarre. Two people left the store without paying because they were impatient that the line was moving slow. The cashier saw this and didn't seem to care. There were several interesting characters in the store and the scene deserved a song written about it. Music-wise I'm always trying to come up with melodic riffs and parts unlike anything I've written in the past." Westy Bowen's main musical inspirations are singer-song writers, some folk music and

jam rock bands as well. "I have really been listening to a lot of Phish lately, but I love Neil Young, Allman Brothers Band, and the Grateful Dead. There are so many more but those are my main go to's for inspiration. The inspiration for the songs I write varies. I find inspiration in writing songs about stuff that means something to me and that really had an impact on my life. Like, 'Gumbo Knows' is about a dog that was in my life for a long time and this dog meant so much to me. Also, 'Rotten Structure' is about a time in my life when I was having so much fun and just plain enjoying life. That time still sticks with me to this day and really helped to form up the person that I am today," he says with spirit. Brian Heinbaugh truly understood John Lennon from the first note and lyric. "The passion and wisdom that flowed from him to me seemed limitless and it affected how I approached my craft. Neil Young had the same effect. You just hear the many styles and ways that he can state feelings of love and loss and nature and strife - they all spoke to me and continue to dwell deep in my songs," he expresses. "The material on this latest album spans as far back as thirty years of songs in my case. These were cultivated from a young man's eyes and heart then ripened over time into a solid offering. The songs come from personal challenges in love, success, and even failure - the best teacher of all." Some of Brian Brittingham's favourite bands include Neil Young and Crazy Horse, Widespread Panic. "Two of my favourite bands have two drummers – The Grateful Dead and The Allman Brothers Band," he adds. Ruskin Yeargain's musical inspirations go back to Tom Jones and Elvis Presley. "As

I got older, I loved Van Hale Boston and The Police. However, when I began attending college, my music tastes changed significantly with the new wave movement, especially the bands from the UK and Australia. I loved REM, Duran, Billy Idol, Hoodoo Gurus, INXS & Midnight Oil. By the end of the 80's I was in a regional band and we recorded an ep at Reflection Sound in Charlotte, NC. RE recorded their first two albums there, so we were thrilled," he enthuses. "Duri those sessions I began to take a real interest in producing. Over the years, I've recorded and produced number of artists and it's always exciting and fun to help someone realize their creative vision. It's been the way with Fried Goat. Deke has a vision for this band, and I help him sort out the musical aspects. It's a great relationship." Deke has two kids who are active in sport and he is very involved. "I've coached basketball, baseball, soccer. So I spend a lot of time with them. We go to sporting events and concert I took my son to a Pearl Jam concert when he was 8 and he loved it. We go to a bluegrass festival every year also. I love going to see live music when I can. I just spe four days at the Bonnaroo Music Festival in Tennessee with Westy, his girlfriend Caroline, and our buddy Chavis. I love the fall in the southeast US when it cools down and college football is in season. We go to University of Georgia football games in Athens, Georgia & a family quite often. I also like grilling and slow-smoking food such as bbq, etc. Musi is usually a part of all these activities also," he explains me. Westy loves to play music, and he also loves to go see music live. "I have been going to see a lot of li

longer to finish than we expected. We also took some extended breaks from recording in 2017 and 2018. The final mixes were done in March of 2019 and the album was mastered in April 2019 by Donn Aaron," explains Wiggins. Right now Fried Goat are heavy into promoting the album as much as possible. "We seem to be getting some press in Europe which is interesting but obviously great. So we're trying to capitalize on that while we can. We'll be playing some shows in the south-eastern US coming up in the next few months. We also write music all the time so a there's a good chance we'll be recording before too long. We are going to be putting out a compilation record probably in 2020 of our most well-known songs from all of our previous releases. There will be some unreleased music on the record too including a studio version of a cover song that we've been playing live for years. We've actually already recorded the majority of the song," concludes Deke, bringing an end to our conversation. "Rock N Roll Saves Lives" is now available on CD, and you can also purchase it digitally through all major music services, one to check out. Check Fried Goat out at www.friedgoat.com / <https://soundcloud.com/friedgoat/rest-again/>

LICK CREEK, are a hard rock band from Springfield, IL, United States. They have a new nine track album out now called 'Too Damn Country' which runs in at just over thirty minutes long and is the bands second release. Lick Creek are: Lance Stone – lead male vocals, Robert Bryant – drums, Tyler Landess – lead guitar, Ryan King – lead

guitar/mandolin/pedal steel/banjo, Maddie Brown – lead female vocals/acoustic guitar, Steve Gragert – bass. This album also features guest spots from the talented Jenae Freenor – fiddle, Rusty Danmyer – pedal steel, Shane Bumgarner – banjo. It's around 10:00am on a hot and humid August morning in the Midwest state of Illinois.

"You almost need a shovel to dig through the thick moist air around here. Perfect for outdoor music festivals and cold beers," smiles singer Lance Stone. "I've gotten back to the gym recently, so I've already had my preworkout, protein shake, worked out, and now I'm home and sipping on a delicious smoothie. Don't be fooled, mornings are when I'm at my best. As the day goes on, the eating habits get worse. I'll have a big ole bowl of ice cream before bed," he smiles. Rock and roll man!!! Lance Stone believes that he came out of his momma's womb singing to three chords. "Since I can remember, music has always fascinated me. It's always had the ability to make me feel not just what the song is provoking, but it also brings other emotions to the surface that I may not have realized in that moment. It's like an emotional ride for me. So, being such a powerful

influence on me, as a child, I of course pursued music," he tells me. "No one in my family is musically gifted so I was always performing in my room. I would listen to songs on the radio and try to emulate what I heard. I've spent many a childhood nights standing on my bed (stage) with a He-Man action figure in hand (microphone) belting out whatever song was playing on the radio or whatever record I had managed to steal from my sis' room. As I got older, I left my bed for a real stage." Guitarist Ryan King believes that music chooses the person as much as a person chooses music. "I just remember having an uncontrollable urge to play a guitar when I was younger. After some convincing, my parents bought me a guitar at 15 and away we went. I loved all the classic country songs from Merle, Hank, and the list goes on. So, of course my style and influences show that. Interestingly, I never really played out in bands until my late 20's," he adds. Bassist Steve Gragert comes from a very musical family, and his dad was a guitar player and he played in country bands his entire life. "His brother played guitar and his uncle played mandolin and fiddle. Music was in my blood. I started out playing drums from about age 7 and transitioned to guitar at about age 12. I sang and played guitar in bands from age 17 until I was in my late twenties when I switched over to bass guitar. I immediately fell in love with the rhythm section and I've now been playing bass ever since," he explains. Drummer Robert Bryant's first venture into music was the typical public-school band program in 5th grade. "I had no idea where that would take me in life, but at the time it seemed like a great way to get out of class for 30

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