

## At a Glance



**RASCAL FLATTS**

### Rascal Flatts lip-syncs apology for lip-syncing

When multiplatinum country group Rascal Flatts appeared to be lip-syncing during a performance at this year's Academy of Country Music Awards, the trio handled the aftermath — including a promotional round for new album "Rewind" just a month later — with a little honesty and a lot of humor.

Lead singer Gary LeVox said the band had played two shows and done several hours of interviews in the days leading up to the April 6 show in Las Vegas and his voice was affected by the dry desert air. Bass player Jay DeMarcus joked that when they decided to lip-sync to their new single, it was clear they weren't very good at it.

They were still making light of the situation as the group sat down for a recent interview. At one point, DeMarcus crouched down behind LeVox and spoke like a bad ventriloquist, promising to never lip-sync at an awards show again as LeVox moved his lips out of time.

"And for anybody that was offended by that, we sincerely apologize and hope to redeem ourselves in the near future on the next live performance," DeMarcus said for LeVox.

### Beyonce, Jay Z, Drake lead BET Award nominations

Beyonce and Jay Z are making headlines for another reason this week: They lead in nominations at the BET Awards.

The network has announced that both performers are nominated for five awards, along with Drake. Pharrell and rising performer August Alsina each have four nominations.

The BET Awards will air live June 29 from the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live.

Beyonce will compete twice for video of the year with the songs "Partition" and "Drunk in Love," which features Jay Z. Her competition includes Pharrell's "Happy," Drake's "Worst Behavior" and Chris Brown's "Fine China."

On Monday, celebrity website TMZ posted a leaked security video that appears to show Beyonce's sister, Solange, attacking Jay Z inside a New York hotel elevator in Beyonce's presence.

### Conan O'Brien to stay up late on TBS through 2018

Team Coco will continue to play for TBS for four more years. The network says Conan O'Brien will be sticking around with his late-night hour through 2018.

"Conan" premiered on TBS in November 2010. It airs Monday through Thursday at 11 p.m. Eastern time.

The announcement Wednesday comes with the late-night landscape in flux at rival networks. In recent months Jimmy Fallon has taken over NBC's "Tonight Show" from Jay Leno, while David Letterman has announced his retirement next year from CBS' "Late Show," with Stephen Colbert taking over.

Recently TBS announced that in 2015, O'Brien will become the first late-night host to broadcast his show from San Diego's Comic-Con.



The Ohio Weather Band, from left, Ray Lumpp, Derek Strata, Corey King and Pete Childerson, released their self-titled debut album in April. The roots-rock band will perform Friday at South Beach at Carnation City Mall.

Review Photos/Ed Hall Jr.

# A life-altering entity

## Ohio Weather Band releases debut album



The Ohio Weather Band's Corey King sings during a recent band rehearsal. King wrote all the songs on the band's debut album.



The Ohio Weather Band's Corey King, left, and Ray Lumpp.



Ohio Weather Band bassist Derek Strata, left and lead singer and guitarist Corey King.



Ohio Weather Band drummer Pete Childerson.

By JOHN G. WHITACRE  
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Starting out as three best friends making music, The Ohio Weather Band has turned into a "life-altering entity," said founder Corey King. Recognizing their promise Buzzbin Magazine, of Canton, recently named the band one of Northeast Ohio's "Best Unsigned Bands."

The Ohio Weather Band, a four-piece rock band from Alliance, released its self-titled debut album on April 4, on its label, Ohio Weather Records. "We hope to build Ohio Weather Records into a hub for DIY independent artists who can share resources and talents," said King.

The band members are Corey King (guitar/vocals), Derek Strata (bass/vocals), Ray Lumpp (keys/vocals) and Pete Childerson (drums/percussion). Lumpp graduated from Marlington High School in 2008 and the others from Alliance High School — Strata and Childerson in 2008 and King in 2009.

Prior to the formation of The Ohio Weather Band, King played extensively as a touring solo artist. Wanting to develop a broader sound, he enlisted Strata on bass and Lumpp on drums, and in 2010 he released a solo EP titled "Ohio Weather." King, Strata and Lumpp continued to hold impromptu jam sessions, and, although they never played a show as a trio, they created a foundation of likable material. Then, just as their sound began to gel, Lumpp moved to Seattle.

Childerson came in to replace Lumpp's drumming, and the new trio created a solid set and began performing at local venues and events. The band began playing not only locally but regionally as well.

During this time they had no recorded material, and knowing that playing without a product to sell was unacceptable, they went into the studio. An initially fitful recording process led to a three-song EP, which the band gave out for free until the release of their debut album. During the time the band had been recording the EP, Lumpp returned from Seattle and rejoined the guys, only this time as keyboard player.

The album consists of all originals, and when playing live they also sing covers, including "Proud Mary," Jackson Browne, Bill Withers, White Stripes and Radiohead.

King wrote all the songs and said he finds inspiration in true-life events. "I try to keep it, not necessarily personal, but I keep it to things that actually happened — stories, some major events, some trivial events." He learned to write songs mostly from just doing so and from listening to bands.

The band as a group arranges new songs. "First, I listen to it a couple times and see where spaces are for other instruments," Strata said. "We just build on that, change around verses, chorus spots, where a bridge will go whilst working on it. If it gets too muddy, we're pretty good at calling each other out. ... Sometimes there's just a little too much going on."

Childerson said as the drummer at the beginning he keeps everything real simple mostly so they get the idea of what the song is. "I get it down, get more creative, add more of my personality," he said, as he becomes familiar with the song.

King said he is always writing songs and hopes the band will start recording their next album this summer. They plan to add more harmony and use different recording techniques. "This album came out pretty raw sounding, which is cool, but we have a better grasp on recording, and it will have its own sound," he said.

The Ohio Weather Band played in Columbus last weekend and at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Tuesday for a benefit for The Up Side of Downs. The guys got the latter job after a competition at Hard Rock Cafe in Cleveland. They didn't win, but judge Megan Zurkey liked what she heard and recommended them for the Rock Hall gig.

They have played around northeast Ohio, in Pittsburgh and Erie, Chicago and Michigan, and they're booking a two-week tour with dates confirmed in New York City and Philadelphia.

They will play at 9:30 p.m. Friday at South Beach at Carnation City Mall. Other shows include June 20 in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, and June 27 at Musica in Akron.

The album can be found on iTunes, at all digital medial outlets, and on Amazon and Spotify. The band's website is ohioweatherband.com.

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