

Roots

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Roots Artist of the Month: Meet local rock 'n' roll band Basket Case



Basket Case band plays a show at The Blind Pig in Ann Arbor on Oct. 8, 2025. Photo Photo courtesy of Basket Case

Hannah Borders
Arts and Entertainment
Reporter

Ypsilanti-based band Basket Case brings entertainment to local music lovers as they play live shows across the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area. Basket Case describes itself as a rock ‘n’ roll band. The group consists

of four members: drummer and vocalist Jehan Burki, bass player Tyler Clincher, guitar player and vocalist Davied Cordero Caballero

and lead guitar player and vocalist Logan Goreman. Three band members, Burki, Cordero Caballero and Goreman met working at the same job, originally starting out as a three-member band. They later met Clincher at Washtenaw Community College, becoming the four-member band they are today.

The name Basket Case comes from the headman’s basket that is used by an executioner — the headman — to catch a head after decapitation, Burki said. The headman’s basket is often associated with the French guillotine and historic public executions.

Every member of Basket Case works together to write songs, with Goreman as the primary lyricist. The members will often meet up and play their instruments together to come up with music and put lyrics to it later, though Goreman usually comes into a writing session with some lyrics already written. Members of Basket Case said it can take them anywhere from 45 minutes to five months to complete a song.

“We don’t really fit a mold. All of our songs are crazy different. ... It’s a bunch of people that have rock influences letting their feelings out, and so that can range anything from a slower song to a punk song, and even just screaming and yelling,” Cordero Caballero said. “Our writing process is very eclectic, which I appreciate. And I think

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Roots:

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Corrections

Roots corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor-in-chief by email: cellarroots@easternecho.com.

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The Eastern Echo *Photo of the Month*



Friendly faces will greet guests at the Michigan Renaissance Festival 2026 in Holly, MI. Some friendly faces are Temperance Blackstone (Kakign Crechisk) (left) and Friar Von (Mike Short). Temperance Blackstone has been part of the festival for the past 2 years. Whereas Friar Von has been on the cast for a year but has been a patron for the past 25 years. *Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*

Local Calls For Art & Auditions

A2AC Shop Application | Ann Arbor Art Center
annarborartcenter.org/galleries/a2ac-artist-opportunities/

Heat Index | The Voyeur Bordello
Submissions due Aug. 10
thevoyeurbordello.com/open-calls

2026 Exhibitions | 22 North Gallery
22north.org

Machinal | Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
Sept. 25-26 at 6 p.m.
a2ct.org/machinal

Junior Theatre: Myth Understood | Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
Sept. 22 and 24 from 5-6:30 p.m.
<https://www.a2ct.org/mythunderstoodjt>

Script Submissions | Theatre Nova
theatrenovaplaysubmissions@gmail.com

Eastern Echo Summer Photo Review



Dr. Brendan Kelly started his position as president of Eastern Michigan University on April 1. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo



With Lady Sunshine and The X Band playing in the background, James Henry (left) dances with Michelle Henry at the University Bank on June 20 to celebrate Juneteenth. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo



On July 4, at the Ypsilanti Water Tower, Holli Andrews, owner of Depot Town Cats and Dogs, was one of the many local companies participating in the Ypsilanti 96th annual 4th of July parade. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo



Black Pride Ypsi organizers celebrate with a cake during Black Pride Ypsi's Y2K Cookout at Growing Hope Market in Downtown Ypsilanti on Saturday, June 28. Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo

Live Music

SKWRL & Yeddie @ The Tap Room

On September's First Friday event, catch live music from SKRWL and Yeddie at The Tap Room. Music will start at 8:30 p.m. There is no cover charge, but the Tap Room asks attendees to tip the bands.

Sept. 4, 2026 at 8:30 p.m. | The Tap Room, 201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti | Admission: Free

The Fallout Shelter

The Fallout Shelter features a weekly rotation of DJs spinning house, techno, bass and other dance music at the Regal Beagle in Ypsilanti.

Sept. 9, 2026 from 7:30 p.m. to Sept. 10, 2026 12 a.m. | The Regal Beagle, 817 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti | Admission: \$5

The Music of Studio Ghibli

Joe Hisaishi's spellbinding scores to Hayao Miyazaki's Academy Award-winning films are brought to life by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor Wilbur Lin.

The orchestra's website says, "This season, we're bringing all your favorite Studio Ghibli soundtracks to Ypsilanti! Featuring music from My Neighbor Totoro, Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle, and Kiki's Delivery Service, this concert will capture the hearts of Studio Ghibli fans of all ages!" The performance does not include film projections.

Sept. 19, 2026 at 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. | Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl. | Admission: Prices vary, visit website for more details

My Brightest Diamond

My Brightest Diamond is the moniker of Shara Nova, a classically trained vocalist and self-taught multi-instrumentalist whose music is as dazzling as it is shape-shifting. Since assembling the project in 2006,



Ypsilanti Freighthouse is a venue located at 100 Market Pl. Josh Cromwell / The Eastern Echo

Nova has consistently resisted genre conventions, blending elements of rock, art pop and chamber music into a sound unmistakably her own.

Raised in a family of traveling evangelists, Nova spent her childhood crisscrossing the country, with her father leading church choirs and her mother playing organ. When the family settled outside Detroit in the early 1990s, she absorbed the sounds of hip-hop and soul filling the airwaves, alongside the likes of Samuel Barber and Bach in her high school chamber choir. After studying classical voice at the University of North Texas, Nova relocated to New York City, where she formed My Brightest Diamond, producing six bold and genre-defying albums, each inhabiting a distinct musical landscape while remaining anchored by Nova's singular voice. My Brightest Diamond closes the Freighthouse UMS residency with this performance.

Sept. 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. | Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti | Admission: Pay what you can starting at \$5

Art Classes/Workshops

Acrylic Painting Course

Explore acrylic painting in this six week intro course. This course is perfect for those who are new to painting and are interested in developing a new skill. Classes begin with learning about color theory and color mixing. Course organizers say painting should be fun and relaxing and encouraged attendees to come learn the basics. See Ypsilanti Art Supply's website for more details.

Tuesdays from Sept. 8 to Oct. 13, 2026 from 3 to 5 p.m. | Ypsilanti Art Supply, 42 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti | Admission: \$180 - \$220, additional materials fee of \$50.

Figure Drawing at Dzanc House

Dzanc House hosts figure drawing guided by local artist Erika Chesky. This class is broken down into quick impressions in the beginning, and then as the workshop continues, attendees will have longer periods of time to draw with greater detail.

Sept. 9 & Sept. 23, 2026 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. | Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti | Admission: \$10

Journal Lab at Ypsilanti Art Supply

Ypsilanti Art Supply offers a monthly gathering of practitioners (journal-keepers, sketchbook artists, diarists, etc.) of any experience-level who come together to share insights from their practices, experiment together with new techniques and journal quietly together.

Sept. 20, 2026 from 1 to 3 p.m. | Ypsilanti Art Supply, 46 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti | Admission: \$10-\$30 (sliding scale)

Dance

Ecstatic Dance ~ Somatic Release

Every first Wednesday of the month, Rhizome Roots Studio invites attendees to dance, shake, exhale and release at its ecstatic dance and somatic release sessions. There will be a facilitated DJ dance wave, in addition opening and closing sets.

Sept. 2, 2026 at 7 p.m. | Rhizome Roots Studio, 108 Pearl St., Ypsilanti | Admission: \$23.18 - \$44.52 (sliding scale)

Zumba with Kadesha & Teri

Zumba is a cardio dance workout powered by Latin, hip-hop, Afro Beats and World music. Leaders Kadesha and Teri create a supportive and welcoming class for people of all body types and abilities, making exercise feel like a dance party. The website says, "We aim to provide an affordable, encouraging, and fun opportunity to get fit and celebrate your body's ability to move."

Sept. 7, 2026 from 6 to 7 p.m. | Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti | Admission: \$15 for drop-in, \$10 for students



Beverages from the Ypsi Cocktail Club located at 102 W. Washington St. *Caroline Murrel / The Eastern Echo*

MI Fusion Connection

Presented by Rhizome Roots Studio, participants can level-up their skills in class, share a home cooked meal with instructors and dancers, then bust a move to live music at evening socials. Expert instructors and musicians from across Michigan and the U.S. are coming out to teach these three days of classes.

Sept. 25-27, 2026 at 7 p.m. | Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Drive, Ann Arbor | Admission: \$47.73 - \$241.94 (sliding scale)

Film/Theatre

Tales from Detroit: Flying Cardboard Theater

Join Detroit-based Flying Cardboard Theater for a delightful puppet adventure celebrating the hidden wonders of the Motor City. Guided by the friendly and quirky Janitor James, families will discover fascinating stories inspired by Detroit's animals, plants, music and neighborhoods. Through imaginative puppetry, storytelling and humor, real-life history and make-believe adventures come together in a fun-filled journey for all ages.

Sept. 13, 2026 at 11 a.m. | Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti | Admission: Pay what you can starting at \$5

Bad Movie Night

Bigger and badder than ever, the Ypsi Cocktail Club

invites attendees to come watch the worst movies they can imagine: terrible or nonexistent soundtracks, made entirely of shaky camcorder footage from someone's basement, baffling premises, actors who are trying way too hard or not hard enough. Laugh, cry and groan in fellowship with a room of people who are experiencing the same horrors together, with a drink to help ease the pain.

Sept. 24, 2026 at 8 p.m. | Ypsi Cocktail Club, 102 W. Washington St., Ypsilanti | Admission: Free

Community Events

SpeakEasy Open Mic

Share songs and stories in good company at Water Tower Distilling Co. Sign up to perform or simply listen to local music, poetry and more.

Sept. 4, 2026 from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. | Water Tower Distilling Co., 23 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti | Admission: Free

Rumble of the Bumble 2026

The Rumble of the Bumble is a street event where vendors and performers help raise awareness for environmental issues. The main event is a bee-themed professional wrestling match. There will be family-friendly fun, free entertainment and excitement. The event will be a day of connective energy and performances, all in support of bees and pollinators. This is the third annual Rumble of the Bumble and is set to be an epic showdown.

Sept. 5, 2026 at 2 p.m. | Depot Town | Admission: Free

Tabletop Sundays

Attention board game lovers: The Ypsilanti Cocktail Club has new Tabletop Sundays coming soon. The venue will have a variety of table sizes to accommodate all game types, so players can bring their game group and enjoy happy hour cocktails while they play.

Sept. 6 and 27, 2026 from 4 to 9 p.m. | Ypsi Cocktail Club | Admission: Free

5 keys to success for incoming art students at Eastern Michigan University

Hannah Borders

Arts and Entertainment
Reporter

As the fall semester begins, new art students might face program-specific challenges, in addition to adjusting to college life and new schedule. Five Eastern Michigan University professors shared advice for incoming students with majors housed in the School of Art and Design and the School of Music and Dance.

Set the value of art

Metaphor Brown is a professor of simulation, animation and gaming in the School of Art and Design. Brown shared that one of the most common pitfalls for an art student is self-negligence.

"It can be extremely challenging to take your practice seriously in a world that does not value creative work despite constantly consuming it or relying on it to process and communicate complex ideas. Art education is valued even less, so it is easy to not value your own creative learning," Brown wrote.

Brown said that art students must teach others how to take their work seriously, saying if artists treat their work like it is sacred, then others will do the same. Time, consistency and patience will allow growth, and growth looks different for everyone, Brown said.

Attend class, ask for help

Stephanie Christensen, professor of music education in the School of Music and Dance, emphasized the importance of regularly attending class.

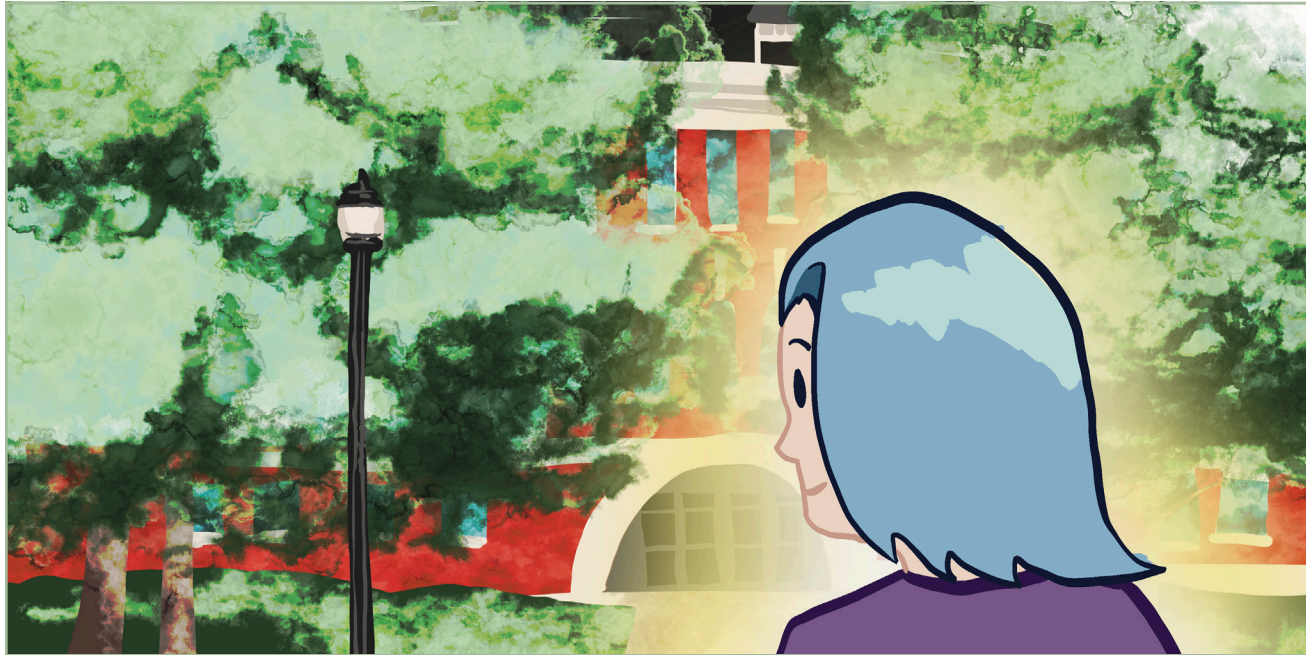
"Go to class! And when you're in class, let it be a little awkward and get to know other students. Build and become part of a community. These people are your future friends and colleagues," Christensen wrote.

Christensen said that college is an adjustment; students learn as they go, and it gets easier with time. It is important to ask for help no matter how mild or extreme the situation may seem.

"As an instructor, I always want to hear from students, to make accommodations to support their learning in my class, and direct them to other resources when what they need is beyond my areas of expertise," Christensen wrote.

Bring a positive attitude

Chad Hutchinson is the director of orchestral activities in the School of Music and Dance. Hutchinson highlighted the importance of a positive attitude and organization in regards to preparing for a successful semester and handling self-doubt. He recommends taking time in the beginning of the semester to establish a routine.



First time art students may face challenges while adjusting to their new environment during the first semester of college. Jada Hauser / The Eastern Echo

"Everyone has self-doubt in areas, professors included. If you have put in the time and prepared properly, trust your process. You belong and are talented. When one tries to cut corners or is unprepared is often when situations become worse. Also, reach out to other students and work together to create a positive sounding board where everyone can support each other at concerts, performances, in class, and away from the School of Music and Dance," Hutchinson wrote.

He noted that everyone moves at different paces and progresses at different levels. Instead of comparing oneself to others, he advised students to try to notice their own improvements and celebrate them.

Plan for necessary time, materials

Dustin London is a professor of 2D media and foundations in the School of Art and Design. London said that some common setbacks for art students can be underestimating the amount of time one needs to put into their studies, lacking necessary materials to complete projects and not allowing enough experimentation while working.

"Many students underestimate the amount of time they will need to make their best work, both on the level of a single project and in terms of the time a class requires. You'll find you almost always need more time, so give yourself more time than you think you need," London wrote.

He encouraged students to learn what materials

they will need to complete a given project and ensure they get them in a timely manner.

"In upper level classes, students often think they need to have a fully formed idea worked out in advance, such that making is an act of simply executing that idea. This often leads to work that is stiff and unexplored. If you're not sure what to do, do not let that stop you from experimenting and brainstorming with various materials and techniques. Once you start working, the very process of making will show you possibilities you hadn't considered before, and this almost always leads to more interesting outcomes. Ideas and intentions are inevitably met with the realities of materials," London wrote in regards to allowing oneself opportunity to experiment.

Come as you are

Brian Spolan, professor of 2D media in the School of Art and Design, offered advice for students. He explained that it is okay for students to come into class without prior knowledge or experience. Students are supposed gain those things in class. Every artist has a beginning, he said, and no one naturally knows how to create things; it is learned.

"You don't need to be good, smart or creative to be successful. You just need to be making stuff," Spolan wrote. "Art classes are about gaining experiences and skills. Not coming in with them already. Most students haven't made Lithographs before taking a Lithography class, so why would anyone be surprised that it's difficult or complicated?"

6 shops to find art & craft supplies near campus this semester

Jada Hauser
Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief, Arts Editor

As the semester begins, students at Eastern Michigan University often come to campus needing new art supplies for class assignments or personal projects. Here are six shops near campus to find the supplies needed for that next assignment.

Ypsilanti Art Supply

Ypsilanti Art Supply is one of the closest arts and crafts stores to campus at 42 N. Huron St. It is an independent art supply store that offers supplies for just about every art medium. YAS also hosts a variety of classes at the shop like beading, making post cards, fiber arts, drawing and more which can be found on its website. The store is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stony Creek Bead

Stony Creek Bead is located at 2076 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti. It is a locally-owned full-service bead store that carries a wide variety of supplies for jewelry makers. Store owners offer both group and private classes for beading and jewelry making, and host vendors. They also often feature a “Beads from Around the World” display where artisans can show beads from other cultures and locations. The store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and



The storefront of Ypsi Art Supply located at 42 N. Huron St.

Jada Hauser / The Eastern Echo



Twin Bird Yarn & Notions sells a large assortment of yarn.

Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Twin Bird Yarn & Notions

Twin Bird Yarn & Notions is a new store located at 8965 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. It is a locally-owned fiber arts store that carries yarn, tools and even knitting

machines. The shop offers private lessons and group classes for those interested in learning how to knit or crochet, and welcomes crafters of all skill levels to attend free weekly events. Twin Bird is open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., as well as

Wednesday from 12-6 p.m.

Swoop's Pantry

Swoop's Pantry is on Eastern Michigan University's campus on the ground floor of Pierce Hall. Swoop's hours vary by semester, so be sure to check out its website for the most up-to-date schedule. While Swoop's

is primarily a place for students and faculty to shop for grocery items at no cost, it also offers many non-food items including art and craft supplies and clothing.

SCRAP Creative Reuse

SCRAP is a non-profit secondhand art and craft supply store located at 4567 Washtenaw Ave. in Ann Arbor. It offers a wide variety of supplies for artists of different mediums. Shoppers can find classic craft supplies like fabric, buttons and writing utensils, but may also find inspiration in non-traditional items like bottle caps, tennis balls or donated toys.

In addition to art supplies, SCRAP also hosts

creative workshops and events as well as drop-in volunteer opportunities. The store hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

PTO Thrift Shop

Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop is located at 2280 S. Industrial Highway in Ann Arbor. The shop is a non-profit program that supports Ann Arbor Public Schools. It carries a variety of secondhand craft supplies including sewing patterns, notions and more as well as toys, games, quilts and other donated treasures. The shop offers a birthday discount of 25% and weekly sales that can be found on its website. It is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Basket Case

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lyrics-wise, we're either pulling from real-world events that are happening, stuff that has happened in our personal lives in the past that we want (an) outlet for, or sometimes just fun stuff. We have kind of finagled with some lyrics, and written about nothing, and then tried to change them after.”

Each member of the band is inspired by different music artists, as well as their own individual musical tastes and preferences. Burki mentioned inspiration from artists like Fugazi, The Jesus Lizard, Misfits, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and more. Clincher is often inspired by the alternative genre of music and sub-genres of rock. Cordero Caballero finds himself influenced by bands like

Blink-182, Green Day and Bring Me The Horizon.

Burki said that each band member's unique interest in music can make song writing challenging, but when everyone's musical tastes are satisfied, “that is when we know we have got a Basket Case song.”

Basket Case plays live shows at venues around the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area. They frequently play Ziggy's at 206 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. Their upcoming shows can be found posted on their Instagram @basketcase_ypsi.

Basket Case has music available for streaming on SoundCloud and Bandcamp, as well as live performance videos on YouTube.



The Eastern Echo



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