

Isaac:

Alright, well, let's get started here. Okay. Uh, Joe, how long have you been playing music?

Joseph:

So I grew up in a pretty musical family, and I just remember, my earliest memory of anything musical is my dad playing guitar growing up. I like it really on age, and so I remember my dad bought me like a mini, crappy mini guitar or something like Ye Big. When I was like three years old, and of course I didn't learn it, but I was just playing it, and then just, and I broke all the strings, of course, and so my dad didn't trust me with it. So I didn't use it at all, but I did like that next year. I saw my sisters come home from this house, this random house, and they had candy bars. I was just like, "What the frick? I want to do that." And I found out they were doing piano lessons, so I was about like four or five, and I'm like, "Okay, I want to do piano lessons," because obviously I wanted the candy, right? So I started doing piano lessons at four or five, didn't get very good at piano, but just did it. And then when I was like nine or ten, for some weird reason, oh, I did band all throughout high school, middle school, elementary school, and so band started around fourth grade, so my mom wanted me to become a percussionist. And my whole life, I thought I was going to be a drummer, just because I would put together pots and pans and wooden spoons and just like pretend I was Neil Purt or something, and then we had like a rock band drum set, and I would just go ape crap on that thing, just, "Buh!" And then we eventually had an electric drum set, and so I started playing on that for a little bit, realized I wasn't very good, and so then I picked up the bass guitar because I heard Red Hot Chili Peppers, and I heard Slat Bass, and so I was like, "That's super sick." So I discovered that, and then, but it just wasn't doing it for me for some reason, drums, bass, piano, and so then I retried learning how to play guitar when I was 11, and I was just adamant that I was going to learn it. And I was like, "I don't care what it takes, I want to learn the songs I've always wanted to learn." So that's when I started playing guitar, and I've been playing for about 12 years now, and it's the one instrument I can say I'm pretty good at. It's the one thing that's been pretty consistent. And then in high school, I started learning how to mix and master music and engineer music. I just used GarageBand on my mom's laptop, and that kind of started a new process of learning how to sing, learning how to write music, and I did that from my sophomore year up until a couple years ago. I still write music, and I still perform, and I still love recording, but I don't do a lot of the self-producing stuff that I used to do. So yeah, it's been my whole life, really. It's been almost 15 years or so, or whatever, but it's been a lot of fun.

Isaac:

Awesome. So let's fast forward to now, you're here in Rexburg. How long would you consider yourself part of the Rexburg music scene?

Joseph:

Yeah, so I've lived in Rexburg for a while, I've also lived out of Rexburg for a little bit, but I've technically been part of the music scene since 2024. I joined a band called Coastal

City, and yeah, we just played shows at the basement, the gates, or Nauvoo House, just like DIY shows or sometimes venue shows, but it was very small. And then we started expanding out to Utah and stuff, and playing bigger shows, but that was kind of my start. I always wanted to be in a band. I was in a band in high school, but we never really played much shows or did anything with it, and all of it was my, there was just life going on. And so this was a cool experience to kind of just finally be able to do what I truly love doing, and that is playing my instrument in front of a bunch of people. So yeah, since 2024, I've been in the Rexburg music scene.

Isaac:

Going back to playing in front of people, do you have stage fright?

Joseph:

I used to. I used to get it like terrible. So I did jazz band in high school, and there was a lot of times where I would have an opportunity to do a guitar solo or improvise in front of people. And I just put a lot of pressure on myself at a young age. I just really wanted to be something I wasn't, which was a professional musician, and I wasn't. And so that made me really nervous and made my playing way worse, actually. And I think you just do that enough, you start to kind of not really feel those same feelings anymore. And so when I started playing shows in 2024, I would say by my second or third show, it just changed. My whole emotions changed. Before the show, I'm pretty chill. I'm pretty excited. I might have some butterflies, but I'm not super nervous. And then during the show, I'm like having the time of my life. I'm like a different person. It's like the most confidence I ever have is on stage in my life. And then after a show, I'm usually, I wasn't depressed, but I'm usually just drained and just like, not as social or as exciting. And so it's weird how it's kind of changed, but that's kind of how I would explain it now, of how my process is.

Isaac:

That's cool. I was going to ask about like, you know, what's it like being on stage now? And you kind of answered that. How does it feel like if you could really describe the feeling of being up there on stage, all these people here to see you, like the crowd's giving you the energy?

Joseph:

It's very like, I would imagine like a professional athlete feels playing like, like if you're in an NFL team and you're playing on Sunday and you're just like killing it. You might even have a bad game, but just like people that are there to support you. And it very much is like self-centered in a way. And I usually don't love that when I'm not on stage, because I just try to be as normal as I can be. I'm not trying to be, I don't want everybody to be like, "Look at me." But when you're on stage, dude, it's completely different. It's like, "Look at me. Look at me." And so that's kind of how I would explain it, is like you kind of almost

turn into a different person and you kind of just, you're really trying to show off your art and trying to, and the fact that people are there to witness your art and like have some sort of emotional connection through that, it's really cool. And it's like hard to put to words, but it's definitely a very unique feeling that you don't really get anywhere else.

Isaac:

Yeah, that's cool. So, we've talked a lot about what it's like being on stage, but also being a part of the community or any show you play, you get to be in the audience as well. What is it like being in the audience?

Joseph:

So, I think the biggest thing I've noticed in Rexburg is you usually get the same crowd every show, every concert, and that's just people that are trying to have fun and trying to maybe escape because life is not always super exciting or super fun. And so it's nice to have something where people with all sorts of difference, political beliefs, religious beliefs, music, taste, where you can just kind of get together and just go crazy, have fun. I've been to so many shows in Rexburg now and the crowd is usually the same at every show. And there's people that really love live music, they love supporting their friends, and yeah, there really hasn't been a bad crowd in Idaho. I've played shows in other places and I would say Rexburg's definitely one of the best crowds you can get.

Isaac:

Nice. Speaking of going crazy in the crowd, what's the craziest thing that you've seen from the audience, either during one of your shows or during another show?

Joseph:

Let's see here. There's a couple that I can think of. There's not one particular crazy experience that I can think of right now. I remember the first Dune show we played, that was when I crowd-served for the first time. So that was a cool experience of me being in the crowd and going crazy. It was so fun. It was one of the coolest things in the world. Nothing can compare to that. Just being on top of people and you're literally flying and it's so fun. I think obviously some of the mosh pits are super fun. I remember probably the best mosh pit I've ever been was the first Taco Bell show we had, 2024, in the fall. I wasn't even playing the show, I was just there to support all the local bands and yeah, I just was like, shoot.

And so I jumped in the middle of the mosh pit. I think they were playing the band, I think it was Anyone Awake was playing. This was before I joined Anyone Awake. They were playing "Killing the Name Of" and I'm pretty sure they did a Wall of Death thing. That was so fun. Just running into people and just going crazy. And then at Meltdown, seeing the crowd do the kind of row thing that they did for the Stone Pope show, that was unreal. I was like, that's so fun that people were that creative. Alright, I'm going to do this, but not only am I going to do this, 20 or 30 other people are going to join me and do the same thing. It's really cool to witness.

Isaac:

I think that's something that's really cool about the scene here. What else? What is it about the Rexburg music community that makes it so special? What do you think that is?

Joseph:

Obviously, unity is a word I can think of. I kind of talked about this a little bit before. You might get people that are very religious that have maybe a completely different music taste than someone that is maybe not so much religious and has a more acquired music tasting. You just get a huge melting pot of these people that are from different areas of the world. Some of them aren't even from the United States. That's what I love about Rexburg is you get a lot of international students as well. They also bring their culture and it's just cool to witness that. Because, United States, sometimes you don't always see that. It's really cool to see people that have polar opposite beliefs and cultures and fundamentals and everything, but they can agree on the music that's being played and the feeling they feel. Which really is a spiritual experience in my opinion. The fact that people of all different stages of life can just connect in a way that maybe you wouldn't think they would connect in. Rexburg does that very well. Every show you're going to get people that look super clean cut, Mormon looking, or you get someone that looks like they're from Oregon if that makes sense. Not to say that either one is wrong or bad. Some people are raised differently and have different beliefs. It's just cool that the music can connect them somehow. If it wasn't for the music, there's no way they're going to talk to each other. There's no way they're going to socially interact because they just are different. It's okay to be different. In a time where the world splits us apart politically and religiously, and the music, that's the one thing that can connect people. I think Rexburg does that very well.

Isaac:

That's beautiful. You just covered all of my questions in one answer. That's okay. That's awesome. That's okay because we're a little bit low on time anyway. I always ask if you could describe the music scene in one word, what would it be? You said unity. I think that's great. How has being in the community impacted you personally? Your social life?

Joseph:

It's given me a little confidence I haven't had in a long time. For some reason, I'm still a young adult, but my early, early 18-19 first couple years out of high school, I really struggled. I served a mission for the church, but I didn't serve full time. Part of that was also serving at home. That was something that for some odd reason was something that put me in my shell. I was very self-conscious about everything. It took me a long time to get out of that. Doing something that I knew I had ability at, I don't want to say that I'm better than anyone or at a certain level, but something that I know that I've worked really hard and have some sort of talent with it. It's cool that being in a band and being able to express that. That just gives you another level of confidence that it changed who I was as a person. If you met me three years ago, four years ago, where I was just moving out of the house and moving to Rexburg, I did talk to a lot of people and I didn't share my art

at all. It was to myself. A lot of it was just that confidence issue, which was totally not who I am as a person. I've always been an outgoing person, someone that has some level of confidence. The Rexburg music scene took me out of that. If it wasn't for joining Coastal City and playing shows, I don't know if I would be the person I am today. Now it's awesome because you meet so many people coming to these shows. People recognize you either if you're on stage or if you're just in the crowd or if you're just around. I've been recognized a couple of times and it doesn't necessarily make me feel like a celebrity or anything, but it's just cool that there's something where you can meet people and be like, "Hey, I saw you at that show." I met so many cool friends and people that I truly love and cherish through either playing shows or coming to shows at Rexburg. Good job, Rexburg. You're doing good.

Isaac:

I think last question. If you could give anybody in the community a shout out, who would it be?

Jospeh:

That's really hard.

I'll shout out a couple of people. There's so many people that I could shout out. I'll first shout out Devin and Tucker. They're technically not really in the Rexburg music scene anymore, but they're the guys that kind of took me in and let me join the band. It's been really good being in a band with them. We're doing really cool things and I've gotten to experience one of the things that I've always wanted to experience with music with them. Obviously, Cash and Seth have been really good too. They've also kind of tipped me in this last year when I joined Anyone Awake and it's been really good just seeing that level of creative genius through those people and their work ethic. I really appreciate what Blake has done for the music scene as well, what Stumpoaps do. JP is the GOAT. Gang. I love Gang. He just came to all my shows and now he's like my boy. I love that guy. So shout out, Gang.

Isaac:

Awesome. So the last thing, we're doing this bit where all the bands and all the artists would be like, "We are whatever I am." This is our main camera. You want to look? I'm going to let you look at the camera.

Joseph:

I am Joe, AKA Joseph DeSoto.

Yeah. I would say use your alias, I am Joe DeSoto.

So, cool. Alright, we ready? I am Joseph DeSoto.

Isaac:

Awesome. Thank you. How'd you feel about that? Sweet. Perfect. I think that's a wrap. Sweet. Cut.