

Zackariah and the Prophets Memorial Award Application

Marcus Trummer

I realized music was my passion when I began playing guitar and writing songs 5 years ago. Since then, I have developed my musical chops learning mainly by ear, but have also taken steps to improve by joining the National Music Centre Jam Club mentorship program, attending various music camps, and Calgary Folk Festival Bootcamps. This year, I became a member of the YYC Jazz Youth Lab band on guitar to expand my musical skills.

After performing solo throughout 2017, I decided to form a band in early 2018. Since then I have increased my output of songwriting and regularly perform originals with my band at many locations around Calgary. In our first year as a band we played over 40 gigs. In September 2018 I began hosting a monthly jam at The Blues Can. Through this opportunity I have not only grown as a musician but I have also improved my professionalism, gained confidence with crowds, and dealt with technical issues. It has also allowed me to begin to build a following and over the months attendance has grown from 40 people to about 80 people each month. Above all, hosting the jam has been really great to allow me to continue to build connections with other musicians at a similar stage in their career and help mentor those who are less experienced.

Over the past year I have begun to learn about aspects of the industry through self-managing my band. This includes: submitting for festivals and contests, performance/touring logistics, social media promotion, and leading rehearsals and recording sessions. I attended SoundOff Summit (which my band played a showcase at this year) and Alberta Music sessions to improve these skills. Through meetings with Music Calgary, I have taken steps to solidify a brand and marketing strategy for my music, honing in on a guitar driven soulful blues/roots-rock sound.

My band's debut single "Good Times" was released this past fall which received support from X92.9's Xposure show and we plan on releasing an EP in 2019. Recently we traveled to Edmonton to take part in a new TV series called "The Moment", airing later this fall and will open for Matt Blais's CD release in June. This summer we will play festivals around Alberta including the Lilac Festival and Waynestock Music Festival. We will also perform in the finals of the Ship & Anchor songwriting competition which I have been a finalist in for the past five years (winning awards in 2016 and 2017) and we will be performing in the Stampede Talent Search which I have been a semi-finalist in over the past two years. Recently, I had the honour of winning the 2019 Randy Ouston scholarship (Calgary International Blues Festival) which will allow me to continue to work on my musicality as well as help me pursue music full time after graduating high school this year.