

# Being a musician requires practice and sacrifice

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Pulsing music, legions of fans and that rush of adrenaline. We all remember our first concerts, but what makes them so intoxicating? Is it the bass pounding, the guitar riffs or the relatable lyrics? Many college students simply enjoy the concert atmosphere.

Local bands seek to create that concert atmosphere. That can be tough on the local level just in finding places to play. Local musician Josh Harrison explains how there is "not enough exposure."

Another challenge of the calling is finding fellow artists of equal aptitude as stated by fellow band member Scott Decarlo, "Good musicians are hard to come by."

Time is another obstacle in the life of a college musician, balancing the demanding hours of classes, filled with homework, tests and papers, with hours of practice and performances. Artists spend time every day practicing their skill, just to gain that extra edge.

On a positive note dealing



Photo by SARA TURNAGE

From left, Scott Decarlo, Devin Eubanks, Josh Harrison and Corey Oxendine rehearse.

with booking, Starbucks and the Koi Asian Bistro have recently hosted live music, providing one of the few chances to show talent in Wayne County.

Being a musician takes dedication. If one wants to be heard or known for his or her music it takes "practice as well as looking at locations where it's more likely to be seen or heard by someone who has the connections," says Josh Harrison. There are a variety of

places to play in the local area, but there aren't any venues in a 40-mile radius where you will be noticed by anyone in the music industry.

Many students who play have been doing so for years. They have gear for the business like multiple guitars, drums, extra sticks and drumheads, cymbals, amplifiers, pedals galore, and some own their own microphones. Of course, with all this extra equipment

comes a myriad of cords and wires to hook everything up and that, if you've ever been around musicians, usually ends up in a huge bundle that almost can't be untangled. All this time and energy and money spent on equipment lead most musicians to a financial crunch. They have to work to support the music, and have to play to make it big and make money in the music industry. It's a quandary.

No band musician can make it all on his own, and finding other good musicians to play with can sometimes be a problem. There are want ads and cards posted in local music shops like Fredrick's, but the best way to find all these musicians is to just get out and play with them.

Being an artist of any sort comes with positive and negative feedback as well as opportunity. Locally, Goldsboro is not the usual place to expect a budding

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- Scott Decarlo

musician to begin, but the dedication runs deep. Drummer Josh Harrison practices "about three hours a day, five or six days a week." Guitarist Corey Oxendine says he practices "a minimum of an hour and a half a day," and guitarist Scott Decarlo says, "I practice all the time. Even if I don't have an instrument in hand, I'm always practicing my guitar scales on my arm or trying to figure out drumbeats on my 'air' drums."

Many musicians who really have the ambition and the talent to be well paid professionals move to bigger cities like

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