

more practical and more fun. With recording and arranging, I have a lot of control. It makes me better at producing and recording, which is valuable stuff."

Stevenson thinks YouTube is a good move for Magee, because the Internet opens him up to a bigger audience. But he emphasizes the importance of standing out on a platform that makes it so easy to post material.

"YouTube works great for consumers because it's a quick, easy and free way to access a large quantity of diverse music," Stevenson said. "YouTube is great for the artist because it is instant distribution to a large number of potential fans. The challenge for the artist is getting 'heard above the noise.' Because of the quantity of music on YouTube, an artist needs to create great music in unique ways to successfully garner the attention of fans."

As Magee's time at Elon comes to a close, he looks forward to creating more music and videos. After that, Magee hopes to work in the music industry, eventually building himself into his own artist.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

Magee wants to move to LA or Nashville to work in a recording studio as a piano player, but his goal is to be his own artist, writing and performing his own material.

*Sean Magee*

**Midnight Meals**  
**January 23 at Irazu**  
**11:00 p.m.**

"I want to head to LA or Nashville and find work in a recording studio," Magee said. "I want to do some sessions playing as a piano player. It's a high-pressure job. In the meantime, I will write songs, maybe for other artists. The ultimate goal is to be my own artist, writing and performing my own songs."

Diamond said he hopes his former student will stay disciplined and knows that he needs to focus on his work rather than how it is received.

"You need the discipline of practice and working at your craft," Diamond said. "You're not always going to write a good song, but you always got to write. It's the only way to get there. Also, you cannot get too high over successes or too low over failures. You need to focus on actual work. That's what you can control."

Stevenson agrees, but believes any young artist should know how to diversify his or her efforts and should have the skills to use today's technology to be a marketable artist.

"Musicians in Sean's position need to use as many of the tools and options

available to them in order to be successful," Stevenson said. "I advise aspiring artists to be diverse in the way they market themselves. Artists should be releasing music via YouTube, playing concerts, entering artist showcases, partnering with other artists, shopping their demos, etc. The idea is to reach as many potential fans as possible."

Magee will graduate this spring to pursue his musical aspirations, but no matter what happens, music will be at the center of his life. To Sean Magee, music matters because it's a way for people — musician to musician, musician to audience, audience member to audience member — to connect on another level.

"Music makes everyone feel good," Magee said. "It makes a lot of people get along. There's nothing quite like big live shows with the lights and the loud music blasting, overwhelming you. Experiences like that, or hearing a new song and being like 'I didn't know you could do that, that it was possible.' It's an art, and art is intellectual and valuable, but for me, it makes everyone feel good."