

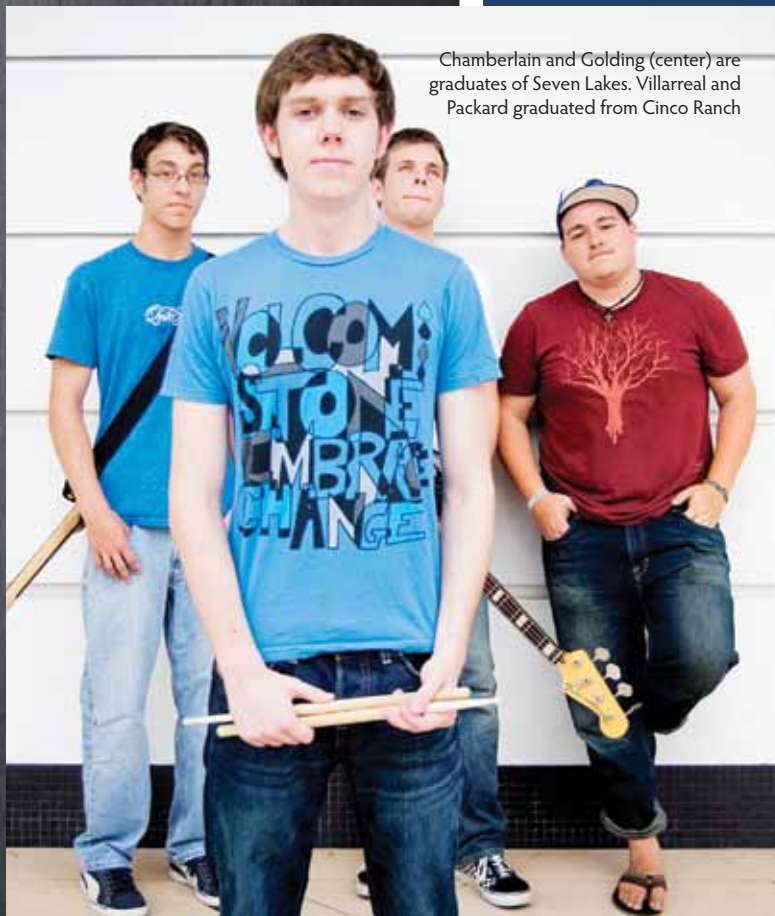


proto stereo

Young Katy Band Aspires to be a Household Name in the Music Industry

Written by Ashley Withers

Photos by Marisa Hugonnett



Chamberlain and Golding (center) are graduates of Seven Lakes. Villarreal and Packard graduated from Cinco Ranch

Proto Stereo band members are Ryan Villarreal, Andrew Packard, Nick Chamberlain, and Charlie Golding

“We wrote songs in 7th grade but we just kind of lost touch with it for a while after that,” says Andrew Packard, lead singer for Proto Stereo.

“We named our ‘band’ then, Saluki,” adds Ryan Villarreal, lead guitarist, “It wasn’t even a band.”

“Yeah, it was the name of a dog,” Packard admits.

This Katy group has come a long way from their “Saluki” roots. Proto Stereo, which also includes Charlie Golding, bass, and Nick Chamberlain, drums, can now be heard in venues like Fitzgeralds and Dunn Bros. on a regular basis.

The boys’ talent is all homegrown too, as all four members are Katy ISD high school alums. Charlie Golding and Nick Chamberlain graduated from Seven Lakes High School, while Andrew Packard and Ryan Villarreal graduated from Cinco Ranch High School in 2008.

Getting to Know Proto Stereo

Self-described as a band straight out of 90’s rock, you can hear the distinct influence of

the boys’ favorite music in their sound. But they are quick to point out that their music is all their own.

“Our sound is our own. I know every band says that, but I will just give you a demo and let you figure it out for yourself,” says Villarreal.

The band writes all of their own music and listeners can gain insight into member’s lives through their lyrics and the mood of each song.



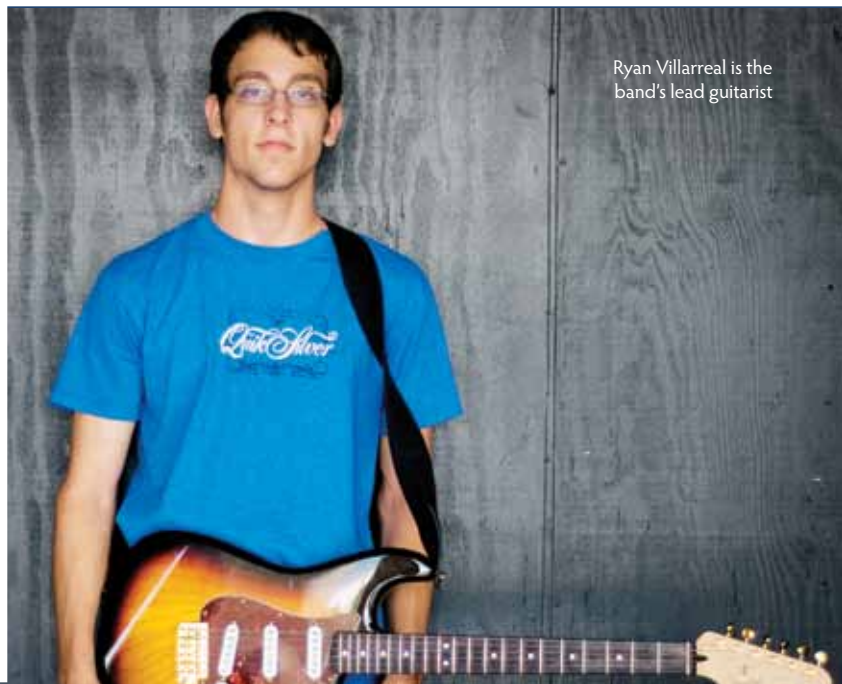
Charlie Golding, bass player,
enjoys performing live



Nick Chamberlain is
Proto Stereo's drummer



Andrew Packard
writes lyrics and is the
lead singer



Ryan Villarreal is the
band's lead guitarist



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"Normally, I'll have a couple songs written, but they will not become a song until the right music comes along, where the mood fits. Just whatever is going on, it goes into the lyrics," Packard says, "I pride myself more on writing than singing. I never really sang before we just started playing. I guess that was something I just got lucky with because I really enjoy writing."

Growing as Musicians

The band plays shows as often as possible, and bassist Charlie Golding insists performing live is the best part of being a musician. "It is just a time to display what we've been working on. If you are just playing in your bedroom for a year then that is just it, just kind of wasted time. Playing on stage, the four of us, vindicates the time we have taken. It makes it all worth it," Golding says.

It is also a time for the band to receive feedback, both good and bad, and a time to really grow as musicians.

"I enjoy a 'Good Job,' you know, that's nice, but I would much rather have somebody come tell me exactly what I need to work on rather than just saying good job to be nice. It sounds kind of harsh, but I don't mind critical honesty because that is what is going to make us better," Villarreal notes.

Andrew Packard thinks the best part is the positive reinforcement he receives from the fans that come out to hear them play. "It is a really good feeling when people that you have no idea who they are come up and say that they really like your music," Packard says, "It's really cool when it is people you don't know because then it is like 'wow this person wasn't here just because they were friends with me.' I mean I appreciate my friends who come out, but it is really cool when we reach people outside of our little bubble."

Never Give Up

"Sometimes it is hard to keep the momentum going, but we are going to see it through," Villarreal comments when asked about where he sees Proto Stereo headed, "I just know that we are going to make it if we really want it."

The band believes that despite the odds, they will eventually be a household name.

"The difference between a lot of bands that do make it and don't make it, is that the ones who don't make it are the ones that gave up," Packard says, "I think that is the attitude we have to have: never give up. This is something we really want to do; it brings us a lot of joy." KM

ASHLEY WITHERS, a 2008 graduate of Seven Lakes High School, is a sophomore journalism major at Southern Methodist University. She loves listening to music and finding different and new sounds to enjoy.

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