

## Artist Feature: Lion In The Mane

BY CLARE FITZGERALD | March 20, 2015

"I just want our music to do what bands like Jimmy Eat World and Death Cab For Cutie did for me," explains Lion in The Mane bassist Zach Falkow. "Music can elicit pretty much any emotion you can think of, and I personally find solace in that. If someone ever comes up to me and says, 'listening to you guys gives me comfort,' I'll know we're going something right."

That is the overall sentiment shared by the members of Brooklyn, New York pop rock band Lion in The Mane. Coming together in 2009, the band initially formed as The Atlas before settling on their current moniker. All members had initially been playing in various bands before they decided to head into music together, with vocalist and guitarist Jon Masters kicking everything off with a move to New York, "I had written some new material that was a little different from other bands I had been in, and I pretty much just called up friends and asked them if they were into what I was doing."

Before long, guitarist Dmitry Libman moved out to New York and, after a few line-up changes, drummer John Coryn, guitarist and keyboardist Andrew Lynch and the aforementioned Falkow completed the quintet as you see them today.

Once together, Lion in The Mane set right to work writing music. In 2011, they released their debut EP, *The Way We're Wired*, which saw numerous music fans flocking their way, wanting a piece of this band who seemingly appeared out of thin air with their unique brand of pop rock. The EP allowed the band to tour the United States multiple times, as well as participate in showcases for South By South West, Launch Music Festival and Florida Music Festival.

The band received such a good reaction to *The Way We're Wired* that they set right to work on their first ever full-length album. Before making the trek to The Looking Glass Recording Studios in Atlanta, Georgia, Lion in The Mane compiled a list of songs they felt were their best showings, ensuring they were as prepared as they could be. The recording process was a fun one, as Masters explains:

"Recording was fun. We went down to Atlanta to track the record and then had it mastered in Portland. It was a pretty smooth process; we were all rehearsed and really familiar with the songs going into it all. I think it sounds great. Kory [Gable] and Travis [Hill] did an amazing job engineering it."

The band have a variety of favourites from the record, ranging from the heavy hitting 'California on Fire' to the beautiful piano-driven 'Let This Fly' and 'Crosstown Bus'. Both latter tracks feature beautiful harmonies and a smooth sound that listeners truly applaud. Masters is the band's main lyricist, citing life as the biggest inspiration behind the songs on *The Noise War*: "I'm always writing down things that are going on and just soaking it all in. A lot of my music is about relationships and travelling. There's a little seasonal

theme in *The Noise War* that is pretty cool."

You can hear his lyrics on the album and feel the meaning behind each track. Songs like "Bright Sunny Beautiful" and the album's title track are reminiscent of the upbeat and positive style of HeyHiHello, while tracks like 'Mommy's Monster' and 'Home On The Weekend' bring to mind Man Overboard, with Masters' vocals taking center stage over guitar-driven instrumentation.

Overall, *The Noise War* is a record that's super catchy, one that pop fans are sure to enjoy. Each track features a distinctive sound that allows them to hold their own and bring something new to the table, an applaudable feat for a band who are only on their second release and have only been around for four years.

*The Noise War* is currently available worldwide and is the start of a big year for Lion in The Mane, "We're hoping to tour as much as possible in support of *The Noise War*," states Falkow. "We know we have some people listening on the west coast, so we'd really like to get out there if we can, and possibly overseas if that's an option. We also have a growing cache of new songs written, so perhaps there will be some new music released this year."

"I'd like to start recording the follow up!" Adds Masters.

Whether you're a fan of pop or are looking for something new to add to your iPod, Lion in The Mane are a band to keep on your radar. Their ability to make infectious pop music while keeping their integrity and producing relatable lyrics is a talent that can't be overlooked. They're destined to be one of the world's fastest-growing pop rock acts, and it'll be interesting to see where life takes them next.

*The Noise War* is currently available for purchase on [iTunes](#).

You can stay up-to-date with Lion in The Mane through the band's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.