

16
JULY

SONICALLY SUPERB ALT-ROCK

While college orientation can be informative, most people don't recall the day as one of their most influential. But for the freshman trio who met that day, it was the moment their friendship, and one of America's leading alternative rock bands, began.

Shortly after meeting in 1992, **Guster's** founding members Ryan Miller (vocals/guitar), Adam Gardner (guitar/vocals), and Brian Rosenworcel (percussion) started playing gigs around Boston. While still in college, they released *Parachute*, a hit record *The Boston Globe* praised as the Best Local Debut Album of 1995. Its success drew from the band's unique instrumental sound based on dual acoustic guitars, sweet vocal harmonies, and hand-drummed rhythms.

Their follow-up album, *Goldfly* (1997), would earn them a recording contract. They have since released a string of critically-acclaimed albums, including 2010's *Easy Wonderful*—the band's highest charting release, at No. 2 on iTunes and No. 22 on the *Billboard* 200.

Multi-instrumentalist Luke Reynolds joined the group in 2010, bringing with him a diverse musical background from his former days in the folk band, Blue Merle. *Evermotion* (2015), Guster's newest album, takes a sonic departure from the group's earlier focus. "With just the right amount of synthesized ambience, clever percussion, unexpected addenda and a touch of old-school rock, the makeover places the band in a contemporary context without surrendering its strengths" (*The Wall Street Journal*).



KISHI BASHI

Touring Green

Guitarist Adam Gardner and his wife started the nonprofit, Reverb, an organization dedicated to helping bands be more sustainable and eco-friendly while on tour.

“Guster Day”

In honor of the band’s Boston roots and their commitment to the environment, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced January 15, 2015 as Guster Day. To celebrate, the group busked around the city playing free concerts, including a performance at the Artists For Humanity EpiCenter.

—Mariam Aburdeineh

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A MUSICAL BEAM OF LIGHT

Kishi Bashi, the pseudonym for artist K. Ishibashi, was named one of NPR’s favorite discoveries in 2012. This musical jack-of-all-trades blends elements of pop, classical, electronica, and beatboxing to create an experimental sound that transcends cultures and pop music eras.

He began to craft his first album, *151a* (2012), in 2008, while touring and recording with Regina Spektor, Sondre Lerche, and of Montreal. In late 2012, after the success of *151a*, Kishi Bashi decided to focus solely on his own music and began composing new material, which led to the songs that are featured on his second full album, *Light* (pronounced “Light”) (2014).