



JASON BORSETH

The Hilary Scott Band:

Hilary Scott - vocals/piano/guitar/violin
 Bill Adams - acoustic guitar
 Rob Lampe - electric guitar/lap steel guitar
 Mike Robertson - bass
 Matt Griffin - harmonica
 Loyd Warden - drums
 Michael Bielski - percussion/djembe

Years playing together: 5

Favorite Columbia venue: "We've got lots of favorite venues, but I tell you what - playing in Faurot Stadium for the 4th of July was awesome," Scott says.

Biggest inspiration: My mother

Describe your sound: Sarah McLachlan mixed with the Cowboy Junkies

HILARY SCOTT

To say Hilary Scott has a way with words is to do her a disservice. Hilary Scott weaves words like tapestries.

In "That Kind of Woman," she tries to dissuade a man from falling for the charms of another woman: "She rides the river down and carries you in her arms / And like the water drowns, you can't resist her charms / ... / She's that kind of woman."

Her feather-light voice has a hint of country twang. Backed by a strong acoustic guitar, her songs tell stories, usually about losses of many sorts.

"Part of me questions the genuineness of happy songs," she says. She has faced hard times, but these days life is pretty good.

Relocated from Seattle, Scott settled in Columbia five years ago at the request of her then-boyfriend Michael Bielski. Now the two have been married four years, and Bielski plays the djembe with The Hilary Scott Band.

Although she loves Columbia's music scene, Scott's currently splitting her time between Columbia and Nashville while she works on a CD and an EP. She's co-writing the EP with producer Matt Wilder, who hosts a monthly showcase in Nashville to promote independent acts. This will be her sixth CD, but it's the first time she has had anyone write songs with her.

"Co-writing makes you open to different avenues of creativity," she says. "You have to compromise when you normally wouldn't."

But, she writes on her blog, "I find the creative thrill is very much alive even in writing songs this way." Three of the songs are finished, and now she's back in Nashville working on another two with the possibility of expanding the project into a 10-song CD.

Scott's schedule is filled with both performances and studio time, yet she still supplements her artistic income by teaching piano and violin and giving voice lessons to children and adults. The goal, she says, is to be able to earn a comfortable living through performing and record sales but to teach because she loves it — not because she needs the money.

That dream requires a record deal Scott hopes will come from an independent label that encourages artistic development and creativity while providing financial backing.

"I don't want to be a puppet, but I want to make money," she says.

Even with a smaller label, Scott admits that making a profit in the music industry requires compromise.

"After going to Nashville, I've had to learn to self-edit," she says. "I tend to write five-minute songs. Radio is three and a half minutes. I've compromised only to the extent that I had more to say, but I didn't have time to say it."

Whatever Scott has to say, it's certainly worth listening to.

— ALISA HOFSESS



ERICA THUM

Warhammer 48K:

Cooper Crain aka Juan Turbulence - drums
 Stephen Haslag aka Chaos Overtone - guitar/vocals
 Pat Copine aka Eddie L. Voniski - bass
 Tyler Creath aka Swick Tirlin - guitar
 Rex McMurry - light shows

Years playing together: 2

Favorite Columbia venue: Eastside Tavern

Biggest inspiration: Nickleback, Fleetwood Mac and Elohim

Dream tour mate: Fleetwood Mac guitarist Lindsey Buckingham

WARHAMMER 48K

Bands don't start out playing fan-filled arenas, living it up in five-star hotels and having dubious relationships with 16-year-olds. Bands start out playing for crowds of 13-year-old Goth churchgoers, satanic radio show hosts, Mexican hipsters and intimidating KKK members. At least bands like Warhammer 48K do. Then they retire to a hot van with five guys who haven't showered in a week.

This is touring, and for a local band, Warhammer knows what it's about. Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, California, Ohio, New York, Kentucky and Juarez, Mexico, all have experienced Warhammer during its two-year existence. Pulling off this sort of touring on a budget is a life-consuming endeavor.

"We don't go to college," bassist Eddie L. Voniski says. "We go on tour."

For their suffering, band members say they have loyal crowds in Columbia and St. Louis, and they're finding larger crowds in cities such as Minneapolis, Iowa City and Portland.

As Columbia natives, the members of Warhammer have been playing in bands together for years. Remnants of bands The I Love You But I'm Not in Love with You, The One Inch Punch and The Pows comprise the group. The band's extensive experience has given it the savvy to perform and record, which is sometimes difficult in a salient college scene. Drummer Juan Turbulence says the students do help fill venues, though.

"We've figured out they like drugs," Chaos Overtone says of Warhammer's audience.

This helps to explain the psychedelic madness subverting the band's noise-rock and metal leanings. Warhammer recently added Rex McMurry to its lineup as a lighting manager, and the band's shows have since become tripped-out adventures in volume and chaos.

Warhammer released its first album, *Ub Om*, last year. Now that most of the band is relocated to a house southwest of Columbia it is looking toward its next recording project. Turbulence says they're working to turn the garage into a studio, and constant access to recording equipment will free the creative process and allow for more experimentation.

"It will be better to be able to adapt to song rather than adapting the song to the venue we do it in the studio," guitarist Swick Tirlin says.

Voniski says the band will try to make album as weird as possible.

As Columbia stands, Warhammer might be one of the final bastions of true weirdness in town. Whether it's the pictographic paintings on the walls of its house, the howling tar sounds coming from its practice area or sudden decision to give the members esoteric multisyllabic names, the band members of Warhammer have a knack for bucking the trend.

"Most of the weird crap in Columbia has basically stopped," Overtone says. But Turbulence has a more optimistic outlook on the local scene.

"You never know," he says. "There could be a weirdo in high school right now."

— JAY I