

Time Cat’s eclectic rock draws from past and present

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

The Time Cat sound may be influenced by the past, but the band’s sound is all its own. The psychedelic and bluesy roots of Jimi Hendrix, The Doors and Jefferson Airplane, as well as strains of punk and grunge, run through the Akron band’s original songs.

“We joke about it, and say it’s eclectic melancholy,” said guitarist and vocalist Jeri Saponetti, who is also the band’s primary songwriter.

Time Cat will be performing at Block 7 Bar & Grill, 524 W. Tuscarawas Ave., at 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25.

The Time Cat sound is also founded on geography, Saponetti said. “Your surroundings and the people that you’re playing with and learning from, that’s what really creates it, that’s what makes the Akron sound. Think about the New York City sound or the Nashville sound. It very much goes with the land.”

While the band’s music reflects many earlier rock styles, Saponetti’s lyrics are planted firmly in the present. “That epic melancholy kind of thing, it comes from being in this place that’s just been economically depressed for so long,” she said.

The social reality of the area influences her songs. “A lot of friends have passed away from drug overdoses, just so many people. It’s commonplace. It’s sad,” she added.

Saponetti finds solace through songwriting. “Because I can’t deal with

the sorrow of it, and feel powerless to do anything, it helps me get through that stuff. Music really is therapeutic.”

Time Cat, which started as a two-piece about seven years ago with Saponetti and drummer Sam Caler, was joined by bassist Colten Huffman, originally from Norton, two years later. More recently, Donald Alan, guitarist with the Tenants, has been sitting in with the band.

Over the years, the band performed multiple times at Akron’s PorchRokr Music and Art Festival in Highland Square and has released several albums. The most recent, “Set the World on Fire,” was recorded live at the Akron Recording Company (ARC) in North Akron, which also featured the band on its “Where the Hell is Akron, Ohio?” compilation in 2018. In the coming months, Time Cat will release a new album.

Whereas Saponetti previously wrote most of the songs, “This new album is the most collaborative so far, really putting in everyone’s individual style, but still super Time-Cattish,” she said.

Saponetti named the band after a children’s book titled “Time Cat,” found in a box in her parents’ basement. “Time is a perpetually interesting topic when you look at it in a philosophical way, and all three of us are philosophical kind of people. I never liked the band’s name until about a year ago, but I feel like we’ve grown into it.”

The band’s music can be found on Spotify, Bandcamp and YouTube.



COURTESY PHOTO

Time Cat will perform eclectic rock at Block 7 Bar & Grill Friday night. Pictured from left are bassist Colten Huffman, vocalist/guitarist Jeri Saponetti and drummer Sam Caler.

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