

GET INTO THE ACT

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When keyboardist Matt Gasda and guitarist Mike DeCrosta started Electioneers as Liberty High School sophomores in 2005, they had rather different tastes. DeCrosta is a devotee of blues artists like B.B. King while Gasda favors modern, layered indie rock and the experimental sounds of Brian Eno.

"If it was just me it would be proggy synth stuff," Gasda says. "If it was just Mike I think it would be more straight-ahead rock. We meet in the middle and balance each other out." The result is a unique mix of effects-laden keys and John Mayer-ish guitar, of traditional rock and noisy electronic experimentation behind pop melodies, serious and light, written and sung by Gasda and DeCrosta.

Electioneers (named for a mix of the R.E.M. song "Auctioneers" and Radiohead's "Electioneering") also features Emmaus High sophomore Dan Reinart on drums and Liberty grads Tyler Honsel on bass and Ethan Stevenson. Stevenson adds second guitar, handles auxiliary percussion, can play bass, and even adds jazzy saxophone. At times Gasda, DeCrosta, and Stevenson all play guitar at once. The result is a thick, swirling sound that shows the influence of experimental rock bands such as My Bloody Valentine and Animal Collective.

Most of the band members are headed to college, so they won't be performing much. But they're staying together and continuing work on an album.

"We're thinking about using it as a demo to get signed or maybe we'll self-release it," says Gasda. "We're young and we're not too worried about it."

Josh Berk