

'OFD' Playing the RRX

With the determination of a Boston street upbringing, Bryan McPherson weilds the power of social media like a baseball bat.



Photo by Chris Besaw

■ Bryan McPherson's music videos can be found on his YouTube channel.

By Rob Smittix

RRX: First off we are stoked that you squeezed the Capital Region of New York into your tour. Last time I saw you live was at Upstate Concert Hall, opening up for Dropkick Murphys. I know a little of the back story behind your history with Dropkick but for our readers, can you explain a little on how you got to know these guys?

BMcP: I'm stoked to be

coming back. I grew up in Boston and came up in "the scene" of the acoustic crowd and also the Boston Punk crowd. Years ago, word got around and someone turned DKM on to some of my tunes and I was invited to open up for them at their St. Pat's shows in 2008-ish. That was followed by a couple of tours a few years after that and eventually all around North America and Europe. Great band and great guys. Had a blast touring around with them and playing for their fans.

RRX: I know earlier this year you released "King's Corner," an album of some older unreleased tunes you have had. I enjoyed the album very much. I also know you have been talking about new material you've been writing and I believe you have even stated that you've recently written the best song you've ever done. Can you tell us a bit about your new music?

BMcP: Oh very cool. You are up to date on the trash I talk on

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PEGGY APPLE
WBQK 104 FM was a place of magic and energy, and Peggy Apple was keeper of the grimoire.
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OP CALLAGHAN
Drummer and singer OP Callaghan speaks fondly of Decadence, and the peerage of local rock music.
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Facebook ha-ha. "Kings Corner" came out in the spring on vinyl, cd, and digitally on the streaming sites. It's mostly songs from a forgotten demo of the first songs I ever wrote back in the day. Dorchester Street corner songs essentially. I took the same spirit I used in that first recording, i.e. me, a microphone, a computer, a room and made a record of these songs revamped reworked and re-recorded. Just so happens I have better gear and know-how these days! I also shot with Jason Stone, directed, and edited a music video for "Ghost of My Hometown" The only "new song" on the album. That was a wild experience. We shot it all around my old neighborhood in

Dorchester. You can scope that on my YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/bryanmcperson>.

That being said, I recently wrote a song that I think is very interesting and sums up the last seven years of my life on the road. The scope and production I have in mind, I have yet to sort out. I do know that after this current tour I am on for "Kings Corner." I will be focusing on making another record. I have more songs than I know what to do with! Maybe a triple record? Keep an eye out for another crowd sourcing campaign. Without my crowd I do not exist as a recording artist, at least on being able to release physical albums. They are pretty expensive to make and distribute. My people have helped me get down the

road in so many ways and have allowed me to create music on a scale that blows me away. Much thanks and cred to all of my backers!

RRX: Obviously, your music has caught attention because of your lyrical content. This is why you have such loyal fans but it's also why you have experienced censorship for lack of a better word. For example being banned from playing Disney owned venues. Which I imagine isn't that bad of an achievement. What are your thoughts on how people interpret your words? Thought provoking is how I would describe it.

BMcP: I think people need to relax and stop trying to ban people's minds and speech. It's absurd to me. As a free thinker I do not need a government or

a business or an idealist telling me what I am allowed to think or say. Personally I would like to know who the a-holes are, so let them talk and sound like fools and crawl under whatever rock they came out from. Disney? Never cared for them, not even as a child. Their films are mostly trash and poison. Being banned by them was a lifetime achievement award. Most recently Facebook has banned my music from my Bandcamp page because it "violates community standards" they have yet to address my complaint or inquiry. I am guessing that their algorithm uncovered some unsavory truths of the world in my lyrics and deemed it "bad" for the community which is ironic since my Facebook community is made up of 90% people

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I know from my music! So they are censoring a community YOU SIGNED UP FOR. I'm encouraging everyone who follows what I do to join my mailing list, so if anything happens down the road, we can stay in touch. I do a monthly newsletter, <http://www.bryanmcpherson.com/ mailing-list>

RRX: It seems like you are always on tour. I know that you like to explore the areas you visit and that you like to do photography while on tour. What is a day in the life of Bryan McPherson like?

BMcP: I'm in Dartmouth Nova Scotia right now at Port City Cafe with The Earl of Halifax on the water in beautiful Alderney Landing before the gig tonight. Played in Halifax last night. Some days I drive all day and then run into a venue to sing then drive again. Some days I wake up in a Walmart parking lot in Utah or a campground in Montana or in a motel in a far off place or desert and go exploring. Sometimes I

stay in cities, but I usually try to get out of the big ones as soon as possible. Too much trouble and too costly and too intense. I appreciate the wide open spaces and natural beauty of the world. I'm not so into traffic and seven-dollar coffees so much anymore. The cities are a different thing these days. Not much grit. Not much truth. Seems like they are turning them into the suburbs I grew up on the outside of. Some days I have to cross borders and they give me the 3rd degree. Some days they just wave me in. Ya never know. Y'all can check out my photos at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/McPhersonRoad> or on Instagram at @mcpherson.road

RRX: I am in a band myself and I constantly find myself saying that if I wasn't married with kids it would be a hell of a lot easier to just jump in the van and hit the road. So, for a guy like yourself, who I imagine is around my age (give or take), do you ever feel like you're missing out on what

would be considered a normal lifestyle? I guess the same way I feel like I am missing out on experiences like your own.

BMcP: Yup! The grass is always greener that's for sure. This life is more challenging than a lot of people imagine. The miles, long days and nights, uncertainty, automotive trouble, lack of security, long months away from home; all that stuff can wear ya down and when things don't go as expected, a calmer less mobile life gets more attractive but typically I get restless and the road calls me again. Like anything else it is what I make of it. It has its ups and downs, peaks and valleys. I try to just remember I'm on the ride of my life, no matter what the current circumstances are!

You can catch Bryan McPherson live at RadioradioX.com studios 35D Saratoga Ave Waterford on Dec. 3rd from 6-9pm with special guests: Colin Moran and The Tradition. Hosted by yours truly!

■ "Originally From Dorchester," McPherson has traveled the world.

Photo by Wes Rollend



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