



All aboard for Wolcott

by Julie Ann VanVuren
Courier Copy Editor

All Aboard! All aboard on the journey that Wolcott is creating. It's a one-way trip to the future of rock and roll.

Their first full-length album, *All Aboard*, was released on Aug. 24, 2001. This album is a work of art. It is a painted mural with five different brush strokes, with each stroke representing a different band member. The mural is a painting of love and destruction, brokenness and rebirth, truth and a non-stop journey to self-realization.

All of the musicians in Wolcott add their amazing talents to the music, creating an artistic and unique sound. Ryan DeYoung, lead vocals and guitar, sings like a pioneer on a spiritual voyage. His voice originates from his soul and travels to the emotions in your heart. "Wolcott is bringing back the band that blows the headliner off the stage," said DeYoung.

Keyboard player, Keith Forsythe, is one of the main ingredients that makes Wolcott stand out amongst other bands. He brings a style with the combination of 80's rock and classical that introduces the audience to an uncharted place in music.

Wolcott played a Q101 show in Chicago at the Metro on September 9. Needless to say, they rocked the place. "When I was on-stage I felt like I should stop, smiling. I was excited to play here; it was a dream come true. We did a good job, and Ryan's voice was awesome," said Forsythe.

"What do you think we're feeling right now?" Ryan asked me after Wolcott played an unbelievable show at the Metro. I have seen the revolution in the evolution of Wolcott. I've watched the numerous members come and go throughout the band, and I've experienced almost every Wolcott show.

My opinion of this band has had a lot of time to form. Each musician interprets Wolcott in a different way, and that shows when they play as one.

Ben plays funky on the

bass. He played saxophone in a funk band called Chocolate Thunder and the Afterglow. Mollin also played saxophone with Smash Mouth at the Aragon and in Madison, WI. While playing shows, Ben's afro of black curls bangs on the stage. Look up Ben Mollin in the dictionary and you will read, "Rock star afro head-banger, inspirational input on this crazy world, outrageous creations on people's hair, and someone who will teach others all that he's learned."

Tom Miller and Eddie Jones go back to being in diapers together listening to the best band in the world: The Beatles. Eddie has drawn his influence from the 'fabulous four', most of all, John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Miller taught himself to play the drums by imitating the drummer from Guns n' Roses, Steve Adler, on their album *Appetite for Destruction*, released in July 1987.

Songwriter Ryan DeYoung pulled up from behind the drums and took the position of front man, lead singer, and guitar after some differences between his brother RJ, original lead singer. But by sticking with it, Wolcott got the sound they needed with Ryan conveying his messages up front.

Wolcott's sound brings soul, rock, and psychedelic pop rock to the Chicago music scene. The recipe to generate Wolcott's sound has a great deal of what is mixed into it. By adding bongos, trumpets, saxophones, flutes, 3 beautiful back-up singers, and theatrics, you can create a delicious taste of music. "We're bringing back singing melody and fun. We're alive, spontaneous on stage, and on the spot. We don't plan how were gonna



Photo by Julie VanVuren

play," said DeYoung.

"Fiending" shows off the band's ability to harmonize with one another. It incorporates the cello, played by Morgan Matthews, into the ballad about longing for more ecstasy, or the feeling of complete love, in this world.

"Teardrops" is one of Wolcott's best songs on the album. It begins with Ryan's voice accompanied by the keyboards, then builds up to an explosion of what Wolcott does best: rock. "People are gonna learn to enjoy rock more after they hear us," said Tom Miller.

"Saw You Through It"

reminds me of a man traveling on a camel in the desert at night, reminiscing about his past love.

When time will pass me by

I'm thinking of a never-ending season

Where all the kids scream in delight,

And the truth for all will make itself apparent

"All Aboard for Love" has a sound similar to one of the Wolcott's favorite bands, Journey. When Wolcott plays this song on stage, the audience feels the energy and excitement. "People are just as tired as we are after we play the show. They get into it," remarked Miller.

Bassist Ben Mollin sings "All That I Haved Learned". Ben's voice is beautiful and passionate. I would like to see him sing more songs on their next album.

Pick up a copy of *All Aboard* at Bossanova, a record store owned by Ryan DeYoung and Ben Mollin. They sell

vinyls, new and used records, used clothes, posters, candles, t-shirts, and hair products. Ben Mollin does hair at the store's hair salon. Bossanova is located at 18155 Roy Street, Lansing, IL 60438.

Visit www.mywolcott.com to get information on upcoming shows, biographies, photographs, merchandise information, and links to other great bands in Chicago.

Wolcott was formed in 1999 in Thornton, IL. Three of the band members attended the town's grade school, Wolcott, thus where the name came from. Ben is the son of the school's principal.

All Aboard was recorded at the Green Room Studios in Lansing, IL by Brett Meingasner, and mastered by Larry Schara at ARS Studios in Alsip, IL. It took nine months, four different band members, and \$14,000 to complete the album.

Catch Wolcott live on Sept. 15, unplugged at Big House Lounge, Wicker Park, Sept. 22 at Lillies in Lincoln Park, Sept. 28 at club Z in St. Louis, Mo, and Oct. 1 at The Note for a Halloween cover show.

