

Tree of Woe



Dear Reader,

Modern Rock band Tree of Woe is currently booking to support their second studio album "Mushroom Cloud". The album was produced by 7thKid/Yellow Dog in Tulsa, OK at Yellow Dog Studios. Tree of Woe combines acoustic and electric guitars into a high-energy show that appeals to an audience ranging from singer/songwriter to hard rock fans. Tree of Woe's style has been likened to bands including Days of the New, Smashing Pumpkins and Coldplay. Included in this packet is a recent show review printed by the established independent publication City Pages (Wausau, WI).

Thank you again for your valuable time and consideration of our music.

Sincerely,
Austin Laszewski

Biography/History Tree of Woe

Tree of Woe has been bringing their Modern Rock sound to eager listeners for the past three years. Tree of Woe plays moody rock tunes that range from mellow to aggressive. Their musical influences range from bands such as Coldplay, Days of the New, Live and Smashing Pumpkins.

Tree of Woe got a tremendous opportunity to work with legendary producers from Yellow Dog Studios and 7thKid on their second studio album, "Mushroom Cloud". The album was recorded at Yellow Dog Studios in Tulsa, OK. Tree of Woe worked with producers that knew exactly how to capture a sound much like you'd hear at one of their live shows.

Tree of woe started in 1999 when brothers Austin & Tristan Laszewski began writing songs on acoustic guitars. After years of writing they were joined by fellow musicians Adam Rodewald and Luke Kreuger to complete the project.

www.treeofwoe.com

CONTACT

Austin

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Venues Tree of Woe has played:

Luther's Blues (Madison, WI)
Anchor Inn (Madison, WI)
Quarters (Milwaukee, WI)
The Main Stage (Green Bay, WI)
The Monkey Wrench (Appleton, WI)
Harmony Café (Appleton, WI)
UW-Oshkosh (Oshkosh, WI)
The Cabaret (Wausau, WI)
From the Ground Up (Wisconsin Rapids, WI)

CJ's (Stevens Point, WI)
The Mission Coffeehouse (Stevens Point, WI)
Tiki Bar (Stevens Point, WI)
UWSP – The Encore (Stevens Point, WI)
Witz End (Stevens Point, WI)

Tree of Woe has received radio play on:

89.9 WWSP (Stevens Point, WI)
95.5 WIFC (Wausau, WI)
104.1 WMZK (Wausau, WI)

Unexpected rock

With a violin in the mix, Tree of Woe injects a classical music edge

If you keep both eyes open, then one day your ears will hear something new. In this case, it was a group of young men spinning slick sounds that pulled me up by the earlobes. Tree of Woe toys with vibrant reverberation, tip-toeing the line between alternative rock and something else. They're a rock band, but with a violin that makes an addition as powerful as an orchestra — the swift mix of sound and range of each instrument become symphonic.

Inevitably the songs rock out, marked starkly by a switch from keyboard to drums, by louder vocals and heavier riffs. As singer/guitarist Tristan Laszewski joked between songs at a show I happened upon at UW-Stevens Point's Encore, "We started out acoustic and this is cool. Actually, if you come to our other concerts we're raging death metal."

Heard on its own, there would be few complaints about the heavier music. It's strong, quick, coordinated and catchy.

Melodies make welcome returns time and again, each time with new creative energy.

But it's obvious the band's greatest strength shines in the softer, intimate songs. The harder stuff is never over the top, but it's never as good as the gentle — warm, inviting and emotional. "I just want to connect with people and have them understand what I'm feeling," says Tristan. "Definitely," says his brother, Austin Laszewski, also a guitarist and singer. "A song tells a story of something that's happened." Adds his brother, "And sometimes it's just poetry and you figure out what it means later."

The Stevens Point brothers founded Tree of Woe back in 1999, after years of musical training as teens. The band has played around the state, has enjoyed considerable radio play and took part in the 10-plus-band bonanza, Rock the Lodge, in September.

Down the stage stands Luke Krueger, at all times cradling his bass guitar tenderly.



The Stevens Point-based Tree of Woe plays Friday, Oct. 29 at the Tiki Bar in Lake DuBay.

If he's thinking of that bass as a woman, this man knows how to love. You can hear it. Still, he defers the music magic to drummer Adam Rodewald, saying, "It's all about his right foot." At times that talent swivels to the keyboard. "For me,"

Rodewald says, "It's providing something to entertain or capture an audience."

The wise decision to bring in Jacob Eggener and his violin is a recent one, and this Oct. 10 show at the Encore was his first with the band. Having spent the songs he knew, Eggener left and the more traditional rock 'n roll had the stage. That night the house requested acoustic guitars, but on the site treeofwoeband.com and on their first CD, *Withered Oak*, one can taste their electric incarnation — the band's talents run both ways. You'll pick up influence from oldies and alternative rock, but you couldn't miss the classical piano training of Tristan.

He explained why the show often paused as guitars were constantly being tuned. "You're probably wondering what's up with all this tuning. We're tuning because we want to be in tune."

Throughout, the band shows commendable restraint. The notes are always clean and even the loudest screams are still sung out. It's obvious they're artists, and they've hit on a sound that works: layered, colorful and direct.

Q: What do you hope for with the violin?
Rodewald: Maybe a bit more of a unique sound.

Tristan: It's like, in this area you hear a lot of the same thing.

Austin: The violin adds new melodies to the songs, on top of what's going on, maybe make it more complex. We're just going to give it a shot. I think it sounded really good.

Q: Is the whole band from Point?

Tristan: I met Luke in Asia, and he said he'd help us get our passports if we could smuggle him out of the country.

Q: Will you compose mini songs for tuning?

Krueger: It's probably a good idea.

Tristan: It's almost like an obsession to have my guitar tuned. A lot of the bands I hear, their guitars are out of tune half the time.

Q: Do you guys feel a constant urge to rock out?

Krueger: There's different parts of the songs where it's more intense, and I feel like that's the spot.

Tristan: I think it's the age-old thing, like classical pianists, like the Romantic period, where it was really mellow and then it got really loud.

Q: Is that when you're the tree of "Whoa!?"

Rodewald: That's fun to joke about sometimes.

Tristan: That's the curse of our name. Everyone is always saying that.

Q: Do you see some of your work as a symphony?

Austin: That's what we're trying to get.

Tristan: I can hear a string trio in some of the stuff, but it's (hard) finding people who want to do it.

Krueger: Plus, those people like to get paid.

Tristan: It's almost like the money we earn evaporates in the gas tank. It's all about doing it, and if people like it then it's priceless. ■

