

Band Background

Captain Gravitone & the String Theory Orchestra is a Minnesota-based group that plays original, alternative, roots-based music, that includes elements of jazz, rock, tango, folk, and funk. Led by banjoist Eli Hoehn, the group performs in the Minnesota five state area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota). Captain Gravitone includes guitarist, Kelly Coyle, drummer, Damen Price, trombonist, Nate Beran, keyboardist, Peter Jacobs and tubist, Sarah Houle. The group has released three CD projects including, "What's the Matter with Captain Gravitone?" (2012), "A Real Fine Day (when the circus comes to town)" (2015), and their latest release, "A Universe Parallel to Our Own" (2019), which charted in the top 200 on collegeradiocharts.com, and was selected for inclusion in the Hennepin County MN Spin program (2021). Much of Gravitone's music revolves around fictional super-hero, Captain Gravitone.

Captain Gravitone

The Gravitone character, "philosopher, physicist, super-hero of the new millennia," is a fictional super-hero invented by Hoehn, whose super powers include, empathy, tolerance and love, grew up in a circus freak show with his friends, mentors and family that include the circus strong man, a bearded woman named, Miss Louise, his pal Jo-Jo the Dog-Face Boy, a troupe of Romanian acrobats called "The Flying Kalashnikov's, and his parents Jeannie the Half-Girl and Bruce, the circus dwarf.

Music Reviews

"From Rock to Folk, To Psychobilly to Ska, it's all in there. And it's a sound that any fans of Gogol Bordello are sure to appreciate. Yet, the up and coming artist's sound is by no means a reincarnation of anything which has ever existed in the soundwaves before. There's a hypnotic amount of chaos which makes their sound endearingly indulgent. Each progression is as immersive as last due to the eclectic instrumental arrangements, from the haunting waves of the organ, sporadically primal drum patterns, violin licks and ska rhythms, damn, they've pretty much got it all! And the vocals are absolutely the cherry on the cake. The vocalist possesses that rare alluring tonality which draws you into the imagery contained within the lyricism."

-Amelia Vandergast, A&R Factory

"contemporary, original and completely satisfying, Captain Gravitone and the String Theory Orchestra once again demonstrates its cutting edge, yet extremely listenable sensibilities."

-Phil Nusbaum, Bluegrass Saturday Morning, KBEM, Minneapolis, MN

"A Universe Parallel to Our Own' is the perfect CD for those road trips you've traveled a thousand times... The musicianship and Eli Hoehn storylines will keep you entertained and alert for the drive. Just don't get distracted trying to look for Jo-Jo's Rooster."

-Bruce Davis, Folk Scene, etc., KMSU, Mankato, MN

"Captain Gravitone & the String Theory Orchestra's newest CD, A Universe Parallel to Our Own, like musical confetti!"

-Carl Unbehau, Minnesota HomeBrew, Pioneer 90.1, Thief River Falls, MN

“part Americana, part country, part jazz, part blues, and part Tom Waits/Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies’ singer) whenever Hoehn opens his mouth; he brings a deep, attitude-heavy baritone to the mix that commands attention”

-Robb Murray, Mankato Free Press

Where We Play

Captain Gravitone & the String Theory Orchestra performs regularly at theaters across the state including, Cedar Cultural Center (1/5/2018), Minneapolis, MN, The Hook & Ladder Theater (5/10/2018 & 11/1/2018), Minneapolis, MN, Bryant Lake Bowl (11/3/2017), Minneapolis, MN, The Paramount Theatre (4/6/2018), Austin, MN, The Paradise Theatre 4/7/2017), Faribault, MN among others. Captain Gravitone is a regular feature at the Rock Bend Folk Festival in Saint Peter, MN, and has performed at Rhythm of the River Festival (7/7/2017), Jackson, MN, Ethnic Fest, Walker, MN, Return of Jesse James Days, Northfield, MN, Covered Bridge Festival, Zumbrota, MN, and Songs on the Lawn, Mankato, MN. They have been part of numerous community events, including Wind Down Wednesday, Albert Lea, MN, Music in the Park, Hutchinson, MN and Music in the Street, Zumbrota, MN. The group performs regularly at wineries, breweries and Art Centers including, Morgan Creek Vineyard, New Ulm, MN, The Grand Center for the Arts, New Ulm, MN, and the Mankato Brewery.

Who We've Performed With

Captain Gravitone & the String Theory Orchestra has performed with some of the greatest talents in the Minnesota music scene, including, Rio Nido, Dean Magraw, Lehto & Wright, The Galactic Cowboy Orchestra, Papa John Kolstad, Bill "Wailin Willie" Smith, Dick Kimmel, The Brass Kings, Pat Donohue, Mother Banjo, Pushing Chain, Phil Nusbaum, Tom Nechville and Ron Arsenault.

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