

Selected Artist Biographies by Kimaya Diggs

Jake Manzi - Musician

Jake Manzi is a Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter. After years of touring festivals and clubs in the Northeast, Manzi presents his debut full-length record, *Whatever My Heart Allows*. The new record consists of ten dreamy, heartfelt tracks, and features contributions from Grammy winner Don Was, Griffin & Taylor Goldsmith (Dawes), Grammy-nominated guitarist/singer Madison Cunningham, and Mikaela Davis.

Raised in Northampton, MA, his unique brand of soft rock has earned him significant acclaim, sold-out hometown shows, and opening slots for Lori McKenna, Ryan Montbleau, Chris Collingwood, and more.

Whatever My Heart Allows is a sweetly confessional union of soft rock and indie pop, the story of someone growing towards a deeper understanding of themselves. A laid-back, honest meditation on what it means to let yourself love, even when you're afraid. With lush, sweeping string arrangements, heartachey pedal steel, vibraphone, and harp, *Whatever My Heart Allows* reads as a love letter from Manzi to himself—a love letter he didn't even know he was writing.

Jake Manzi's love affair with music began early, in a crowded dining room, the table piled high with homemade wine, pasta, and meatballs. Once the food was off the table, and the cannoli and sfogliatelle were out, Jake's dad, uncles, grandparents, and cousins would pull out the acoustic guitars, and the house would swell with passionate, spirited harmonies late into the night.

Manzi was raised on the music of storytellers: Bruce Springsteen, Randy Newman, Carole King, and NRBQ. Growing up in Northampton, home to Dinosaur Jr, Pixies, and others, there was ample inspiration around. Jake spent countless hours holed up with a Tascam 414 4-track tape machine, recording demos, and chasing a feeling.

Heart is at the center of it all. Recorded at Studio 68 in Williamsburg, MA and produced by Manzi and his longtime bandmate and friend Caleb Rosazza, *Whatever My Heart Allows* sees the two collaborators at their best: dreaming big and making no compromises. The result is hi-fi, glowing, brightly emotional, and vividly evocative. It makes you want to reminisce at a dive bar, then take the long way home with the top down, feeling the wind in your hair.

Whatever My Heart Allows makes the most of Manzi and Rosazza's combined treasure trove of vintage instruments and amps, and features Manzi's beloved '59 Silvertone electric guitar. Other contributors from Western MA and Los Angeles include Jacob Rosazza, Ryan Hommel, and Danny Bernini. Dawes drummer Griffin Goldsmith's gentle, lyrical touch on drums (recorded at Spirithouse Studios in Northampton, MA) underpins it all.

Jake is known for his candid, easy stage presence, the moving stories behind his songs, and lyrics that will break your heart and make it whole again all at once. *Whatever My Heart Allows* is tender and restrained, brimming with latent pain, but also with hope for salvation. The notion that any lost lover whose bravado is beginning to crack, who's afraid to show his heart, can be found, can be loved, and can love.

LuxDeluxe - Band

It all started when three cousins and two friends got together to play rock & roll in a poster-plastered basement in Northampton, Massachusetts, surrounded by stacks of NRBQ, JJ Cale, and Tom Petty records. Embedded in the Connecticut River valley that legends including Dinosaur Jr. and Pixies call home, LuxDeluxe builds on the valley's history of musical innovation.

Churning out high-octane shows that leave audiences sweaty, LuxDeluxe delivers a serious punch of supple Rolling Stonesey grooves, persuasive danceable hooks, and rock-solid old-fashioned craft. Flaunting like Jagger, with all the sensuality of Bowie, lead singer Ned King creates a spectacle rarely seen since the heyday of rock & roll.

As the band rapidly gains recognition for their live shows, they've been invited to share the stage with the likes of Deer Tick, White Denim, NRBQ, Reptar, Lake Street Dive, Rubblebucket, J Mascis, and Big Al Anderson. The highlight of last year was warming up a crowd of over 10,000 for VT Senator Bernie Sanders.

The band released its second album, "It's a Girl," last year with the song "So Far Away" being chosen as song of the year on the tastemaker radio station The River 93.9 as well as being reviewed and labeled a band to watch for by Pitchfork Magazine. This has been an extremely prolific year. The recently-released one-shot visual EP "Midnight Snack" is only the start of the flood of new music to come from LuxDeluxe in 2017.

With encyclopedic knowledge of vintage gear, from Gabe Bernini's Clavinet to Jacob Rosazza's "Beatle bass" to Caleb Rosazza and Jake Edwards' collection of vintage guitars, amps, and drum kits, LuxDeluxe's next release will be their third full-length album, "Let's Do Lunch." Comprised completely of songs tracked on a Tascam Four Track Cassette Recorder and mixed at SpiritHouse Music Studios in Northampton, "Let's Do Lunch" puts the listener amongst the band during late-night recording sessions, at the center of the synchronicity only family can create, and at the heart of their influences.

Lexi Weege & the Wondertwins - Band

WEEGE AND THE WONDERTWINS: hot jazz and honkytonk with a blues sensibility.

With wild live performances of original music, WEEGE AND THE WONDERTWINS channel the vintage vibes of The Kinks, Julie London, Bessie Smith, and more. Prepare to be enchanted, delighted, and thrilled to your core.

Frontwoman Lexi Weege is a true vocal acrobat, leaping from dangerous, sultry growl to playful lilt in a single bound. You would be hard-pressed to find as transfixing a storyteller. Unapologetic, brazen, and boldfaced, Weege's mastery of narrative is as thrilling as it is wrenching.

Backed by identical twins Tom and AJ DeNegro, drummer Erek Browns, and guitarist Nick Ferrara, Weege is buoyant on the steady foundation of the self-taught Wonderboys, who lend perfect harmonies and rollicking shout choruses to originals and old favorites alike.

Their debut album "*Marigold*" arrived in 2017, followed by "*Do I Seem Weird Lately?*" in 2019, followed by what the band does best: tour. Performing hundreds of self-booked, self-promoted shows all over the country in just a few years, WEEGE AND THE WONDERTWINS are true seasoned professionals, and their work ethic shows.

WEEGE AND THE WONDERTWINS are not to be missed. Like a lone dog howling at the moon in the dead of night, like the open road, or the glowing stars over the desert, they call to you, pull you in with their irresistible magnetism, and make you family.

Grayson Ty – Singer-songwriter

Western Massachusetts-based singer-songwriter GRAYSON TY has mastered the art of vulnerability. Entirely unpretentious, his stage presence is easy, genuine, and unguarded. In an era of so much disconnection and artifice, Grayson brings audiences together with his honest, heartfelt lyrics, and soulful, soothing voice

Following a sold-out release show for his debut EP *Believe*, Grayson has shared the stage with American Idol winner Nick Fradiani, Heather Maloney (Signature Sounds), and Crystal Bowersox (American Idol runner-up) among others. *Believe* earned regional and international acclaim as Grayson toured extensively.

Grayson's impeccable songwriting brings out the best of his full range, from R&B crooning and folk-inspired storytelling to masterful pop riffs and earnest lyrics. He believes deeply in the connective power of music, working as a music therapist by day, and collaborating as co-writer with other songwriters.

GRAYSON TY's most recent singles, "Back to Us" and "One Regret" rapidly gained over 10,000 streams on Spotify, and were highly-reviewed by journals across the United States and Europe. His music can be found on all platforms, as well as at graysonty.com