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“Variety is the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavor.” – William Cowper (1785)

February’s Artist of the month embody this quote wholeheartedly. I’m talking about ‘The Dirty Stop Outs’, a five piece Motown/Soul/Groove band that incorporate “sprinkles of Latin and Disco”. The band, which consists of: Priam Bacich (Guitar), Andy Milner (Bass), Rhett Bartley (Drums), Janelle Russo (Vocals) and Ian Russo (Trumpet & Percussion) have only been together for 7 months and say they are “developing a sound” and don’t want to be limited by what they do.



Inspired by the greats of many different genres, the band has written 16 songs, drawing inspiration from artists like Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Miles Davis, Carlos Santana, Amy Winehouse and retro movies from the 70’s and 80’s.

But how does a band that has been together for less than a year pump out 16 songs? Well, there are numerous reasons. One reason being the vast experience all members have had playing in bands and writing songs and making beats over decades. Another reason for this is the chemistry between them, you can feel the energy in the room as they play, with improvisations and very few takes to get the song right. Lastly, there’s the harmony, the band have established an environment where there is “safety, gratefulness and appreciation” for the ideas put forward by all members.

Through this experience, chemistry and harmony has come multiple different song writing methods. For the song ‘Black Beauty’ the initial idea was sent by Andy to the group, Janelle took it and wrote lyrics to it and it was finished by Priam who came up with chords to the bridge. But no matter which of the processes is used, the band is always honing their craft, in a process Janelle Russo explains as “rehearse, tighten, rehearse, tighten”.

But the hard work doesn’t stop there, the band has aspirations for recording singles and E.P’s which we could expect possibly some time toward the end of this year or early next year. So if you haven’t

had the chance to see this band play live with songs like 'Take it or Leave it', 'Positano Dream' or 'White Line Fever', you will be able to listen to them on a digital format in the near future.

Overall if you like Motown/Soul/Groove/Funk with sprinkles of Latin and Disco, fun and energetic live shows, or you just like to get up and dance, then this is the band for you.

Social media handles will be in the description of this story, you can find tour dates and links to tickets on their social media.