

## Interview with Jeff Royds from New England Garage Bands—June 2, 2010

NEGB: I am here with Raven's Sorrow. How you guys doing?

Jason: Alright.

NEGB: Good. We're gonna go around the table and introduce yourself and what instrument you play.

Jason: My name's Jason Percival. Keyboardist.

Jeff: My name's Jeff Glazier. I basically do whatever else.

NEGB: You are Raven's Sorrow?

Jeff: No. We are, with a third person. Joe Cox.

NEGB: That's who we're missing? What's he play?

Jeff: He's the engineer. Producing engineer for the band.

NEGB: Does he play an instrument for it, or...

Jeff: Not in the band, no.

NEGB: No? So just, on stage, is it just two of you?

Jeff: Umm, for some shows.

NEGB: Okay. [*putting down the recorder*] I'm gonna put this down, it'll make it a little easier.

Jason: We have... we've hired in a band to do most of our shows. We have done a couple of them with just the two of us, and we have a show coming up in a week and a half which is gonna be just the two of us and Joe, who does all the engineering for the show. So they're most acoustic sets, but they work really nicely.

NEGB: Now when you say he does the engineering for the show, what does that entail?

Jason: He runs the sound, and if we do lights he does the sound and light boards. He runs all the effect units, for... mostly for Jeff. [*Looking at Jeff*] Anything else that he does actually during the shows, or...

NEGB: Do you have a lot of effects when you do an acoustic show?

Jeff: On my voice, there's always delay and verb. A couple delays.

NEGB: And he knows which part of the song should have a delay, which part should have a verb, and stuff like that?

Jeff: Oh yeah, of course. Of course.

Jason: That's why we got him. We didn't actually want just to have a... the house engineer do it because there's a lot of specific things that Jeff request that he has for, you know, just even a specific line in a certain song, you know, when I say this line in verse two, I want there to be delay on this word, and Joe does all that.

NEGB: So you've got your own personal sound guy, that's sweet.

Jason: Yeah, he's awesome.

NEGB: Has he worked with you... has he worked with you a long time, or...

Jeff: He's been with us awhile. A year.

Jason: Probably about a year. Yeah, he's one of the long members. Besides the two of us, it's been really the two of us and Joe for... most of it.

NEGB: Now, how long have you two been playing music together?

Jeff: Ninth grade. Probably eleventh grade is when we started music.

Jason: Yeah. We took a long break in between, but we, umm, right after what was it... college? I think. Or his first or second year of college, he was at Brown and I was at Amherst, I would drive over to him with a keyboard. We'd... I'd stay the weekend. We'd have the rehearsals and... umm... the same music that he was writing then is what we're... is what we're playing now.

NEGB: Did you play college parties, or like clubs or bars out near Amherst or Brown, or...

Jason: No, umm... we didn't do anything then. We didn't play any shows. We actually... we parted ways for whatever reasons and we didn't get back together until probably two years ago now, so about seven years break, and now we aren't playing any colleges, though we were playing some Boston bars and clubs.

NEGB: Where do you think your music fits in? Like, where's the appeal, what is your main crowd would be... for your music?

Jason: That is what we're trying to find out right now, actually. Umm... this is not... have you... I don't know if you've heard the music, but it's not typical rock style music. It's not party music, it's not even that fun. But it's very serious and has a very specific message and it really does... it does not have mass... a lot of mass appeal...what people might call a lot of commercial appeal. Not something you'd hear on most—

NEGB: Like Journey.

Jason: —radio stations. Yeah, like Journey. It's nothing like Journey. Yeah, it doesn't have that... umm... so we haven't been able to find a big fanbase playing clubs, and we actually are... have recently...

this is a lot of recent developments over the past week, we've decided that our target audience is probably not going out to a lot of bars and clubs, people looking for a good time and a fun show or... or covers, you know, we don't do any covers at all. So, we're really trying to find where the people are. We believe that there... here's... I mean if... if we were not in this band, we'd be fans of this music. So there, we believe that there are definitely people who want to hear this, and we're trying to reach out for them, sort of more in... sort of art-minded communities. So we're actually going to take more of a internet based approach in finding them now.

NEGB: That's a very nice source... would be a fan of this music... where would you personally look to find it? Any specific sites out there, or...

Jason: [to Jeff] I'm not really sure, do you have ideas on that?

Jeff: I don't listen to music, really, so...

Jason: Umm... I do. I listen to a lot of music, but I'm finding that I'm actually... I don't listen to radio, I don't like a lot of what's on there. My antenna broke off my car four years ago, I haven't had a radio...

NEGB: That's probably the best thing that ever happened to you.

Jason: It's great, I listen to all my own CDs, but when I'm at home, the way I find new music is I go online and I listen to Pandora or something... and that's sort of the market that we really, it's not really a market, but it's sort of the... it's we want to use to promote our music so that people can find us.

NEGB: So you think going on a like a Pandora or a SHOUTcast or something like that would be the best way?

Jason: I think maybe. I think it's a really good idea, again this is all just happening... within the last week we've been discussing a whole new business plan, a new plan of attack on how to get fans and that's, I think it's a great idea, umm... the specifics of it we haven't worked out. But that's where we're gonna start doing all the research now is looking at online marketing—

NEGB: Online more. But where your music isn't technically commercially acceptable, how would you categorize it? What is the message behind the music?

Jason: [to Jeff] How would you categorize it?

NEGB: It's not happy-go-lucky bar music.

Jason: No, and I think... I know... I know that Jeff really doesn't even like to categorize it, and I've never really... I never even tried to because I have no idea where to even start. It's very, it's very emotionally driven, and I don't know how better to say it, it's like... I don't know what to say for the music, it's very, I don't want to say sparse, but it's not, there's no real catchy riffs or a certain melody that you might find yourself singing... you might, but, umm, there's a lot of, like, keyboards, a lot of sort of well placed, umm, not rhythmic drumming, but almost of an accent, it's more, and I don't want to call it ambient music because there's already a genre like Brian Eno would fit into with that, but it has more of those

qualities I think, and a real, something that you'd really viscerally react to I think. That's it is more, it's not really ear candy kind of music, it's, ummm...

NEGB: So it's emotionally driven, where does that emotion come from in you?

Jeff: I mean, I just, ummm...

NEGB: What's the songwriting process? How does it go for you?

Jeff: I haven't written a song in awhile, actually.

NEGB: Okay.

Jason: Whenever Jeff has a bad day he usually is able to work one out, umm, it's really, again, it... I haven't actually written any of the songs, but a lot of the songs that we're doing now are things that we did work together on in college and I was there for the writing process, you know, we'd be sitting in his basement for seven hours at a time, you know, just working on chords, thinking, you know, playing something, and then sitting there for ten minutes thinking what's the next chord, what do we hear next, what are the lyrics, where is it taking us. And I don't know if that's still his songwriting process but I'd imagine it's something fairly close to that. It just... the lyrics are inspired by really everyday thoughts, experiences, a lot of... there's a lot of angst... and a lot of what I... what I would think of as, of as existential angst... the things that I suffered through years ago in high school, the things that still, I think, haunt everyone from time to time, some more than others, and that's really I think the heart and soul of the music and where it's all coming from.

NEGB: What's an example of what you went through? In high school. You were saying, you said high school, so what's an example of what you went through in high school?

Jason: No specific events. It's not like I had a...

NEGB: There's no songs about like losing virginity or drinking or anything like that?

Jason: Oh, I didn't do that until well into college. *[laughs; Jeff applauds]* You want to know what I did in high school?

NEGB: And it's on record.

Jason: I skipped...twenty-two!... I skipped classes to go into the library to read Jean-Paul Sartre.

NEGB: Wasn't the library like, remind you of class?

Jason: The library didn't care. The principal even called me down to the office one day and said you've skipped the last week's worth of classes, and I said yes, yes I did... he was like, where are you going, I said the library, he was like at least tell me you're smoking in the bathroom, I'm like no sir, no I don't smoke, I just go to the library and read, so I mean... just... thoughts. We were... I didn't really associate with anyone in school, it's not like I was necessarily picked on any more than others, I was just quiet, kept to myself...

NEGB: No lyrics about being bullied or anything like that.

Jason: No. No. Umm, it's how we emotionally developed. We weren't really happy in high school, and not because of any, again, not because of any event, just because that's... seemed to be... I don't know why....

NEGB: You're not supposed to be happy in high school. High school sucks.

Jason: Yeah, it... it does. It absolutely does. It still kind of does. Umm, but certain ideas like the meaninglessness, senselessness of life, what the hell, you know, just ideas of what are we doing here... what's... you know, what are we... what are we trying to accomplish? I mean, what is going to make us happy? I mean, how do we even escape our every, you know, nagging thought that we have, it's like, you know, you can't even run away from your own head for five minutes, and sometimes, when you know, your head's filled with demons... that's... that's a problem. Umm, I have sort of lightened up since high school. These things don't really nag me quite as much, but there are still days that I have those, and whatever Jeff writes I've been able to relate to and it still can bring me back, I still feel a lot of... it fills me with emotion still to.. to hear the music, it brings back a lot of... not brings back bad memories, but just... it's almost refreshing, like a very, you know, to hear... to hear truth, even when it's... even when it's not something you really want to hear, it's... it's refreshing.

NEGB: It's very deep music. Stuff you have to really listen to, to understand the meaning and understand the words, the meaning behind the music.

Jason: Yes.

NEGB: There's actually been some blogs and some stuff about you guys, you know, that... that they hate you—

Jason: Yes.

NEGB: —that they're not fans of your music, that...

Jason: No... no, many people are not fans of us.

NEGB: What is some of the things that have been said about your music?

Jeff: I actually just got banned from ever setting foot in Berklee again, by the way. I don't know if you saw that on our...

NEGB: You did?

Jason: Oh, this is a great story!

NEGB: Good for you. What happened? I'm not a huge fan of Berklee anyways, so...

Jeff: Yeah, they, umm, sent me an e-mail saying I can't ever set foot in a building there again. I was recruiting there and it seems a number of professors and students were offended by, I believe the

phrase they used was disturbing and controversial imagery on our website, referring to the Hail Suicide title and artwork.

Jason: The image on your shirt, if you could show the camera.

Jeff: Yeah, it is.

NEGB: Hail Suicide.

Jeff: Yeah.

NEGB: That was basically your web ad that you had, had that Hail Suicide, and then it went into, you know, we're looking for... we're looking for band members. But isn't that what rock and roll is about? Isn't that what music is about? It's about expression and isn't that what Berklee's trying to teach people is expression, or is it just, you know, scales and jazz?

Jeff: That's what I tried to tell them. I was like, hey, guys, we're a rock band, what do you expect, and they didn't want to hear it.

NEGB: Maybe with all the school shootings and stuff everybody thought it'd be a bad idea.

Jason: That's the idea.

NEGB: Berklee been kind of safe so far, there are no Columbines there! Did you find anybody? Did you find anybody at Berklee, or... anybody was interested in you before you got thrown...

Jeff: They weren't up to par. The only musician that I've met that I would say was really up to par for, kind of, the right fit was Brian Zeligson, who was with us for a little while, end of last year, beginning of this year. He didn't really want to pursue a career in rock, so... but yeah...

NEGB: The important question I have is, uh, what do you guys feel of the remake of the Karate Kid? The commercial's on right now so I have to ask.

Jeff: You know, I can't believe they're doing that—

NEGB: Thank you.

Jeff: —I mean, look, like, it's... I don't know, especially the setting, they had to try to be racially right, they made him black, right, set in Asia, I mean, it's just, like... I don't get it.

Jason: I did not know they were making a...

Jeff: They made a black Karate Kid.

Jason: They did?

NEGB: Jackie Chan is Mr. Miyagi. Will Smith and Jada made the movie and their kid is the lead.

Jeff: I mean, don't get me wrong, I have no issue with anything, it's just like, I feel like it's being done to hit a different audience, maybe, or, just, I don't get it. It's... to me it's symptomatic of... kind of what's going on in the music industry, actually, where I feel like people are out of ideas, and so they're just rehashing old ones, you know? And it's the same thing with film, I mean, you get these remakes of movies that should have been dead and buried long ago, like Karate Kid, and they're coming back up, it makes me feel like people just don't have anything new to say.

NEGB: So you don't agree with the new Nightmare on Elm Streets or the Friday the Thirteenth or anything, or...

Jeff: There's another one.

NEGB: They're talking about redoing Wizard of Oz.

Jason: I heard that.

NEGB: Is that the worst thing you've ever heard in the world?

Jason: That is probably the worst idea I have ever heard. I suppose they want to do it because there's all great new effects and it was the first color movie, so... but... why mess with something that was an absolute classic? I don't think they're going to do it better. I understand them remaking classics like Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory... it was completely different. I actually liked both, I think I like the original better, but something like that they were completely different movies, and this... the newer one actually adhered to the book a lot better. But it was a totally different take. So unless you're going to do something like that, then I don't see the point.

NEGB: Now, do you see the music industry kind of going down that road, where they're just trying to recycle the...

Jeff: I think it's gone down that road. It's just, it's... I haven't seen anything... I guess that's why I probably stopped listening to music. I haven't found anything that I've been able to connect to in quite a while.

NEGB: It's like, who can sound like Nickelback the most.

Jeff: Well, I mean, it's... at least it's something I noticed here in the Boston scene quite a bit, is... is the bands that we were on the bill with would... I don't know how... I mean... it was very commercially oriented art. I hate to even use the word art. It was commercial music. And I tend to think that's from a lack of something to say.

Jason: It seems that in... in the whole entertainment world there seems to be a... sort of a... everything seems to be really shiny and glossy and it just, it sounds that way, it sounds like it's not even... it's just kind of a... fake and plastic and I don't, I really don't know how better to describe it...

NEGB: So you're not fans of American Idol is what you're telling me.

Jason: I've actually never seen the show. I've seen a couple of YouTube clips and I was not a fan enough to actually put it on. I haven't liked anything that I've actually heard.

NEGB: The worst of them all. Don't waste your time.

Jason: No, okay, yeah, I have zero interest. Actually a number... a number of my friends have suggested that we go on American Idol to try and find fans. *[laughs]* That was one of the dumbest ideas I've heard.

NEGB: Where do you hope to go with this band, with Raven's Sorrow.

Jason: Top of the world.

Jeff: That's not even a joke.

Jason: I know, it really isn't. Though I don't, you know, I... I don't think this band can... is going to... I shouldn't say that. I know I'm making predictions about what people are actually going to like. It doesn't seem that... I've never heard anything like this, and people don't really listen to music like this, perhaps because there hasn't been anything like it before, perhaps no one likes it. We'll find that out. And so I... it's always really easy to say we're never going to make it really huge, this isn't going to be the next U2. But it could be, cause they were doing something brand new when they did it, and I have no idea what to say. I don't want to sell this band short and say this is never going to be anything... it's never going to have a lot of mass appeal. I mean, this could become commercial music. I have no idea. I really don't know.

NEGB: I'm sure a lot of people when they first heard the Seattle scene, Nirvana or something, they went what the hell is this, this is garbage—

Jason: Exactly.

NEGB: —and mainstream kind of went there and it exploded.

Jason: That's what we'd like to see with this.

NEGB: It changed the music scene forever. You guys could be what music is looking for. You could be the next generation, because we haven't had it in over twenty years. The music scene's just kind of been stagnant and the same.

Jason: That's what we'd like to do. That's what we're hoping for. That said, if that doesn't happen, and we... I think we're still gonna have a number of... we can enjoy almost a cult following. You know, it's not bad to be a smaller band as long as you have really loyal fans who love what you're doing and as long as we're giving them something that they always want to hear, and as long as we're getting something out of writing the music that we do, then... then we're happy with that.

NEGB: I'm rooting for you. Where's the best place people can find you? What's the, uh—

Jeff: Our website.

NEGB: —your website?

Jeff: It's armband.com. It's the best place.

Jason: Or aravenssorrow.com also leads to...

NEGB: Will bring you to the ARS site?

Jason: Armband or aravenssorrow.

NEGB: Now why'd you choose A Raven's Sorrow?

Jeff: He chose it.

Jason: I don't know. I chose it. Back in college. I just, we were trying to think of band names, that just jumped into my head. I said it and... it really grew on us, and we decided when he was reforming the band a few years ago, he called and said I really want to use that name again, and I said...

Jeff: I don't mind sharing what it signifies.

Jason: Go ahead.

Jeff: I'm ok with that. Umm, the idea behind that name was that, umm, that this is the music that... that we are writing about our sorrows, and, umm... it's... it's A Raven's Sorrow because it's the sorrows of one person or one small group. We didn't want to call it The Raven's Sorrow because to us that... that would signify that this is the only valid sorrows in the world, and we feel it's the opposite. What we're trying to do is empower everyone else to start thinking about their own lives, and so we're saying look, these are our problems, these are the things that are killing us. It's A Raven's Sorrow, but you can be one too, and you can be one too, and everyone has their own issues, their own shit they're dealing with, because in the end that's... that's what this is. I mean it's... it's venting about life. And I mean, as we were discussing, I don't mean venting about like, oh, I had a had a bad day kind of thing about life, but just really digging deep and trying to... to... to not try to make things look better and brighter and happier than they are. To... to not try to find redeeming endings. It's one of my favorite things I read, umm, you mentioned those forums out there, you know, I have to admit I've glanced through them, they're pretty entertaining, and my favorite post is this guy who wrote to me about why he hates me so much. And he said—

NEGB: Does he know you? He doesn't even know you?

Jeff: He's never met me. Which is so cool, that just by going out there and doing, you know, what I'm doing, I can get a rise.

NEGB: So is this someone that saw you at a show?

Jeff: No. It's someone who heard us online.

NEGB: Was online, heard your music, and just said fuck this guy, I'm gonna rant about him.

Jeff: Yeah. But what was the coolest thing he wrote, is he said that... that he despises me because the music has no redeeming value or even an attempt at a redeeming value. And you know, and that's what I think this band is all about. And sums up everything we're going after, and... and maybe that's partly what Berklee was mad about, but it's that I'm calling things as I see them, as they are. I'm not trying to find a way to say things are gonna be okay, you know?

NEGB: You're not sugarcoating it.

Jeff: Yeah, I feel like there are people out there that write, oh, life's sad, and then they always try to say things are gonna be okay. Well, this is a band by someone who thinks they're not okay, and they're not gonna be okay.

NEGB: Now what's led you down that road to think that it's not gonna be okay, and it's not...

Jeff: It's just my outlook on... on seeing life for what it is. You know, when you don't believe in a god or religion or anything and this is all it is, it's... a lot of bleak things come into play, when you really start to think about it. You know, I've... the album we're actually about to cut is about that. It's... it kind of goes through, track by track, all the reasons that life basically isn't worth living. The album's called Chrysalis, the uh, the thing a caterpillar goes into before it comes out. And it's the idea that, based on a true story of when I was in college, but it's the idea that if you analyze all these problems and think about every single thing in life that makes life not worth living, can you come out okay? Can you come out of that chrysalis as a butterfly, right? And the answer's no. You know?

NEGB: Why?

Jeff: Because it doesn't change shit. You're the same person, life's the same, everything's the same. You... you just know your problems better than you have before, which is even more depressing when you think about it. You know?

NEGB: Doesn't putting it to music, though, kind of help you a little bit, or does it just fuel the fire?

Jeff: Sorry, what was the...

NEGB: Putting it to music. Putting your emotions and feeling into music does that... does that help you at all, or does that just fuel the fire? To make it worse, make you just realize, you know what I'm just stressed by this even more.

Jeff: It's, yeah, it's both. I mean, it's both. It helps in the sense that what else am I gonna do with my life, you know? You wake up every day and you think about it, and you wonder how you're gonna get through the day. I find the best thing to do is to... to dwell on the problems, to go as deep as you can into them, you know, it's... it's like all you have at that point, you know. But at the same time, nothing puts me in a worse mood. I mean, listening to my own shit makes me sick. It's true. You hear the music and it... it brings you to this place that you don't want to be. And you're living in that place, day after day.

NEGB: So will you be brought in front of a court one day, when a kid kills himself like that old Judas Priest thing back in the 80's or...

Jeff: I mean, look, the... the bottom line to me is that everyone's in this together. And that's what the album's about. And that's what my... my music's about. And that's what I'm making my life about. Is acknowledging that... that this... this life, it's something that everyone's in together and we all go through the same problems and have the same issues. Some people acknowledge it, some run from it, but look, I feel as long as I'm here, I think I want to be there to help people band together, to accept life for what it is, and, I guess in a sense, one could call that making the best of it.

NEGB: You're using your passion to get your message out there. I think that's awesome. I think it's great.

Jeff: Yeah, I mean, I...

NEGB: Not a lot of people would do that. They would kind of take the easy road and try to make the sad situation a better situation with their music, and you're staying true to yourself, and I admire that about you and your songwriting style.

Jeff: Thank you.

NEGB: You're welcome. Does that make you feel happy a little bit, or are you still pissed?

Jeff: I'm not a pissed guy...

NEGB: No, I know, I'm just messing with you, dude...

Jeff: I'm not a pissed guy at all, I mean, as you saw before Jason got here, I'm pretty friendly and fun, and you know, like... and it's... it's not fake.

NEGB: Yeah.

Jeff: You know it's kind of funny, that reminds me of another thing that's in those forums, is people think it's a joke because I put on my Facebook page that like, I like stuff like, I don't know, probably one of my biggest heroes is Ray Romano, and people are like, oh this... this kid must be, you know, trying to pull one over on everybody because here he is writing serious music and yet he listens to, you know, watches Ray Romano, and...

NEGB: Ray Romano's good.

Jeff: Exactly. I mean, I don't want to give the impression I'm not, like, enjoying life... I love life, and that's what makes it so sad, in a sense. I don't know if that...

NEGB: No, that makes a lot of sense. It makes a lot of sense.

Jeff: You know, I love it. I love all the experiences in it.

NEGB: You're pissed about the way things are being dealt with and... and done and handled.

Jeff: No, I'm pissed about what it all means. Nothing. I pissed that I'm gonna lose all this someday. I'm pissed about so many things.

NEGB: Now, when you say lose it all one day, you mean, like, die?

Jeff: Yeah.

NEGB: But, wouldn't passing that on to somebody else, or, wouldn't that... living your legacy or through your music, your music would be passing it on, or anything like that? Or...

Jeff: This is all so cool, because it's like, the music itself answers all these questions, which is so cool. You know, you get the song Flower Girl, probably my favorite song I've ever written, which... which ends... the whole song's basically saying that... that one day the sun will blow up, we know that's gonna happen someday, it's gonna destroy the Earth, it's gonna destroy all my records, everything I've done, basically as if it never happened. And you know, it's like... I don't know, it's kind of like fucked up to think about, you know?

NEGB: Sure.

Jeff: Like, to think about spending your life, dedicating your life to something, and in the end it means nothing. It means nothing.

NEGB: So you probably won't be getting married anytime soon.

Jeff: I am married.

NEGB: You are married?

Jeff: Yeah.

NEGB: Wow. Wouldn't have seen that coming.

Jeff: Look, like I said, I mean, I make the best out of what I have. I'm just not pretending that things aren't the way they are.

NEGB: So life isn't better somewhere over the rainbow, so to speak.

Jeff: Well, yeah. [to Jason] I mean, do you have anything to add?

Jason: No, that was great.

Jeff: It's funny cause I usually don't really talk in interviews or anything—

Jason: I know that.

Jeff: —I usually keep my mouth shut.

NEGB: This is the most in depth and deep any interview I've ever done has gotten.

Jeff: Whenever I talk, like total shit comes out, like people are gonna, I don't know, like the crap I said about Karate Kid, I don't care about it really, people can make whatever they want, you know? I have no problem with that movie... I... you know, it's garbage comes out of my mouth all the time, that's why I leave it up to him [*gestures towards Jason*].

NEGB: Where are some of the blogs that you said people have written shit about you?

Jeff: Oh, I don't know.

NEGB: You don't know where they are?

Jeff: I don't even know or care.

Jason: I don't know where they are. [*to Jeff*] You sent me a link to one that I—

Jeff: Yeah.

Jason: —I read it... there... it's... what was on... was it on noise.com or something?

Jeff: I get insults all the time. People send me, like, e-mails all the time, being like—

NEGB: You suck!

Jeff: —dude, your singing sucks, you need voice lessons, it's like they... they just don't get it, you know?

NEGB: Yeah.

Jeff: Like, I'm not trying to sound commercially viable, I'm trying to sound like... like a person off the street, I'm trying to sound like a real person, but they don't get it.

NEGB: Right.

Jeff: I mean, it's just, you know, there's so much out there if you just go up and look.

NEGB: Okay.

Jeff: It's funny as hell.

NEGB: Now what are you guys coming up for... you said you have a gig coming up. Where's that gonna be?

Jeff: Yeah, we're thinking of doing Blaze's in, umm...

Jason: It's scheduled.

Jeff: It's scheduled. We'll see if it actually happens.

Jason: Yeah. It's Blaze's in Providence on, it's scheduled for Friday, June 11, I don't even know what time.

Jeff: Yeah, me either.

Jason: We're really lax about these things, like, yeah I think we have a show coming up in the next couple weeks and we're gonna go rehearse tonight...

NEGB: People can find it up on your website, though, [arsband.com](http://arsband.com)?

Jeff: It isn't... he was just kidding.

NEGB: Oh, so you don't have a gig coming up.

Jeff: We do.

NEGB: Oh, okay.

Jeff: We were gonna do the show with the full band. We... we actually hired in a few guys to play the Hail Suicide material. The Hail Suicide songs are kind of more straight up rock. I hate to use that phrase cause it's not at all straight up rock, but it's... it's more what you'd consider rock, whereas Chrysalis is what I call quasi rock.

Jason: Lot of guitars in it.

Jeff: Yeah, it's like guitar driven, you know, more drums. We booked the show when we had the full band and then the guys didn't really work out, and I think I'll probably just end up doing it with Jason, just like the two of us.

Jason: We'll probably just do an acoustic show, yeah. Just piano, acoustic guitar, vocals.

Jeff: We did one a few weeks ago, like a month or two ago and it was awesome.

Jason: It was great.

Jeff: The stuff really works just—

Jason: It works better. That's why we aren't as concerned about, you know, it's just, it's in the... it's almost in the back of my mind that there's a show coming up, it's... you know, we've rehearsed these songs so much I think we still have to play through them but, it's like we just, I don't know, it's much... it's natural at this point. You know, just going up on stage and playing a few songs, it doesn't feel like it's something that really... gotta prep as much for as when we had a whole band and almost had to put a stage show together. Then we were... when we did that, we were rehearsing, like, four days a week and for hours and they were really... it was like boot camp. They were really rigorous rehearsals. People would get pissed by the end of it, and have fights at the end of every rehearsal, and people would walk out of the room and say fuck you guys I quit and I'm outta here, and then we'd have to calm them down and say oh, come on, come back, it'll be better, and...

Jeff: He actually had to run the rehearsals—

Jason: Oh my god, I ran the rehearsals—

Jeff: —people couldn't handle me.

Jason: —Yeah, I know that. Oh it was hell.

NEGB: Wow.

Jeff: Like there was... tensions were so high. It was incredible. I mean, even... they really were three to four hours a piece, four days a week.

NEGB: That's a lot of time.

Jeff: Yeah, you know, and for nothing, cause it works so much better just the two of us.

Jason: It really does.

Jeff: But, yeah, the show is a week from Friday, so it's June 11. It's at Blaze's Billiards in West Warwick. And I really... they're actually pretty lax, cause they haven't told me if there's a cover charge, they haven't told me... they haven't told me anything. They haven't told me what exact time we'd be on, how long the set would be. I mean, it's like... but... yeah, I mean...

NEGB: Show up to play, shit we'll come down and have a good time.

Jeff: Yeah, I mean, I'd say if anyone wants to see it, it's going to be fucking amazing because we always do something unexpected, I mean, you know, that's kind of what we do. So, I think if people want to see something cool they can come out, just check the website first to make sure it's on, because we haven't really rehearsed in a few weeks, and I'd say unless we find time, we're probably not gonna actually do it, right?

Jason: What, rehearse?

Jeff: Yeah, no, unless we actually rehearse we'll probably just pull the show.

Jason: We'll find time. I'd like to do this show as our last hurrah before we enter the internet world and say screw live playing.

NEGB: So it could actually be your last live, in person gig for a very long time.

Jason: We are retiring from the stage. Ah, no, once we do find the fanbase then... we'll be playing—

NEGB: You'll be back out there.

Jason: —you have to... you have to play live. I, personally, I love playing live. But right now we just... it's not where we're gonna find... it's not where we're gonna focus all of our energy right now is to booking gigs and to trying to building a... into trying... gaining a fan here and a fan there and then having five

people come out to see us and then just having a snowball effect that will take five years to build up, it's just... it's... we want to find a different way. I don't want to say a better way, not that that, I mean that will work for a lot of bands, it's just not working for us. So, once we find the fanbase, we'll go there, we'll play for them.

Jeff: Yeah, I think the issue's, as he was saying, is it's just, I've noticed that it seems a lot of bands in the Boston area, they're really bringing their friends and friends of friends, and to me that's... for us at least, that's not fans, you know, like, I mean, most of my friends I don't think quite get what I'm doing. I think that's fair to say.

Jason: Oh, yes.

NEGB: And that comes from the clubs saying, bring people. Clubs don't give a shit about the music, they just... they want to pack their bars.

Jeff: No, right. Which is... which is fair. I mean, they have to make their money. But it's... it's a problem, I think, of just how things are working in the city. I think a lot of that has to do with the city. I'm pretty discouraged about Boston, right now. I'd never leave, it's... it's where I was born, I love the city more than any place in the world, but for a music scene, it's really weak. For an art scene I think it's weak, you know? I mean, there's just no foot traffic to any of the venues. It's really bring your friends, and, you know, I didn't kinda give up everything to pursue this to play for just my friends, you know. So, I think he's absolutely right, it's... it's about time to take a break from the stage, and... cause right now all we have... I know you said you haven't had a chance yet to listen to our music, but what we did is, umm, last year we were trying to recruit in a band for live performances. And everyone's first question is what do you guys sound like. And I don't answer that in terms of, like, we sound like blah, blah, blah. It's probably the only question for me that's off limits. And, you know, so it's like I... I couldn't really tell them what we sounded like, cause like, you know, come by, I'll play you my stuff. That didn't work so well. So what we did was, for the recruiting process, we cut ten demos, and it was solely done for recruiting. It was so we could have demos to kind of send out to people. We... we chose five songs off Chrysalis, five songs off Hail Suicide, and basically cut them in my basement, mixed them in my basement. They came out awesome for demos, but... but that's what they are, you know? And that's why I think the direction the band needs to head right now is to actually release a finished, polished album, you know, and that's... that's kind of why we're gonna retire, so to speak, from the stage, cause I think we need to focus our efforts on actually putting an album together, which is something I've been avoiding doing.

NEGB: I got you.

Jeff: Yeah. Long winded answers from me.

NEGB: No, good luck with it. I wish you all the luck in the world. I know that the scene isn't exactly thriving like it used to be, so I feel and hear your pain on that one, so... but...

Jeff: It's all right, you know. I take things for what they are. You can't really complain about it. It doesn't do any good. To me it's always about, what's the next step? How to make it work.

NEGB: Good. Why don't we... we'll play a song for our iTunes only listeners that don't get a chance to get to the website or do whatever. What song do we want to play?

Jeff: Oh, you're gonna play a... wow... jeez, I would say Flower Girl.

Jason: Flower Girl?

NEGB: Flower Girl?

Jason: Play Flower Girl.

NEGB: Alright.

Jeff: Play Flower Girl.

NEGB: This is Flower Girl by A Raven's Sorrow. Thank you guys very much.

Jeff: Thank you, Jeff.

Jason: Thank you.

NEGB: That was thirty-seven minutes of pure goodness.