

Lexington 101



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"Lexington 101" is a new bluegrass/reggae band in Harrisonville, MO. Besides the cross-genre mix of music, a lot of stir and press mention is coming from the band's song topics: food recipes. Our Cass County Music Review reporter recently sat down with the members of the band to discuss their take on music and food.

[Music Review] Great to meet with you all, and thanks for allowing me to interview you. Can you give us a brief history of the band?

["Preacher Man"] Sure. We're brothers and a sister, and we had some pictures taken on the square in Harrisonville **[see picture]**. We figured we had the band pictures; we should have a band. That's it, really.

[Music Review] How did you decide to mix bluegrass and reggae?

["Doc"] Well, we really wanted to be a reggae band, but we only had some bluegrass instruments, mainly ones that people accidentally left at our houses. None of us could justify the expense of buying new instruments, so bluegrass instruments it is.

[Music Review] What happens if the people ask for their instruments back?

["Doc"] How many people are going to read this?

["The Boss"] We'll worry about that later.

[Music Review] So, what really has people talking is your choice of songs. You sing food recipes?

["King Jebbie"] Well, we'd sing drink recipes, too, but "Can I have a large Dr. Pepper with no ice?" is too short a song. Not even a recipe really, but I do want one, if you have one.

[Music Review] Not on me, no.

["The Boss"] Yes, we sing food recipes. You can't hear reggae without thinking of peace and harmony and helping people out. And we thought, "What better way to help people than by helping them remember how to prepare food?"

["Preacher Man"] It does solve a lot of problems. You call your mother-in-law up at 11 at night, and she's scared to death because she thinks there's an emergency and something bad has happened. And it IS an emergency -- you have people coming over for lunch tomorrow, and you can't find her "Brown Betty" recipe. Or, if you do find it, it's all covered in bacon grease and is unreadable anyway. Just SING the recipe! Let your mother-in-law sleep. That's what we do.

["Doc"] Also, we hope to cash in on royalties. Making money every time a song is played on the radio is one thing, but making money every time someone cooks a vegetarian omelette, now that would be something. If we had come up with the song for Red Lobster's garlic biscuits, we'd be rolling in the dough now, no pun intended.

["The Boss"] And reggae is the perfect vibe for remembering things. Easy beat, and not too many chords. It's like the milk, flour, and eggs of music. But I originally got hung up on reggae because I couldn't figure out who "Bobby Lawn" was. Tennis player? Dunno.

["Preacher Man"] (laughs) Yeah, that was a hurdle, but when you realize they're singing "Babylon", it just hits you, you know? Our captors required of us mirth, but how could we sing if we had no fresh cilantro?

["The Boss"] EXACTLY! Or steel-cut oats! But it's hard to rhyme "Bobby Lawn" -- the only word close is "Autobahn", but how many recipes does that show up in? Only two that I know of.

["King Jebbie"] "German Chocolate Cake" for sure. And "Double Cheesy Hashbrowns". (sings) "Set the blender to the speed ... like you're on the Autobahn...."

["Doc"] My favorite.

["King Jebbie"] Bluegrass and reggae are both roots music. Back to the basics, you know? So, we are all about honesty and core, like only recording in analog, and using real butter and not margarine.

["The Boss"] No cutting corners, that's for sure. We do have more cowbell, but we also use less salt.

["Doc"] KOSHER salt! It provides more flavor.

["The Boss"] So you use less of it.

[Music Review] Can you tell us more about your instruments? Or whoever's they are?

["Preacher Man"] I play a standup bass, or cello, I can't tell the difference. Also, I only use cast iron skillets. It's more work, but cooking acidic food in a cast iron skillet increases the iron content of the food, and it's good for you.

[Music Review] But isn't it harder to clean?

["Preacher Man"] Omelettes, for sure! Most people would use teflon skillets, but we're roots.

[All] Roots!

["The Boss"] I sing most of the songs, and only use wooden spoons. Oh, and I'm backup cowbell.

["King Jebbie"] Percussion, and herbs you can grow in your windowsill.

["Doc"] Banjo player here. But I think my take on it is that I'm really picky about my cinammon.

[Editor's note: 20 minute conversation about cinammon removed. Who knew there was a difference?]

[Music Review] Where were we? Right. What do you hear from your fans?

["Doc"] I really do get a lot of questions about cinammon lyrics.

[Editor's note: 10 minute follow-up conversation on cinammon removed.]

["Preacher Man"] They really do grok our vibe. I was walking through Wal-Mart the other night and heard someone humming "Chicken Corn Tacos", and it's just nice to be part of their life, you know?

[Music Review] "Chicken Corn Tacos" is set to the tune of "Redemption Song," and if they were humming it, how do you know they were thinking of your song and not Bob Marley's?

["Preacher Man"] Well, they were standing in front of the taco shells.

[Music Review] I stand corrected. What goals do you have as a band? Where do you go from here?

["King Jebbie"] I think there's still a lot of things to be explored in the dessert area.

["Preacher Man"] The future is wide open. I actually started a side project singing just about fish recipes, and then the other members of "Lexington 101" joined me, so we also have that going on.

["Doc"] But only when it doesn't conflict with our regular band practices.

["The Boss"] The future is in what everyone wants to eat, but can never remember how to cook, like the perfect meatloaf (hint: it includes green peppers). At the corner of delicious and catchy tunes: that's where we'll be.

[Music Review] Well, thank you for your time, and good luck.

[All] Thanks....

Regards,

Jason Filley