

Park City

THE PEOPLE & PLACES OF OUR MOUNTAIN TOWN

ARTS & CULTURE CORNER

© Best Version Media

Artist of the Month: The Fuse

By Christian Weber • Photos by Lexie Clayburn, Take a Hike Photography

Throughout history, art has been the way for our inner souls to speak out, and music has always been a prominent language to express that. Local band, The Fuse, expresses their artistic style by playing classic songs with a funky twist that is very entertaining to watch.

Originally known as The Fuse N' Rock, they are part of the Fuse N' Musical collective, along with sister bands Fuse' N Swing, Fuse' N Folk, and Fuse' N Boogie. But don't let that fool you into believing they are only a rock 'n roll band, as their music stretches into multiple genres like jazz, funk, blues, soul, and so much more!

Described as a "fine cocktail of musicians," the various members have been playing together in different configurations for about ten years. They formed the Fuse with the current six members in 2017.

First, you have Douglas Erekson on lead guitar. He teaches at the Utah Conservatory in Park City and directs a praise band in the community church once a month. Professionally trained, he has been doing music full-time for about 17 years. While the whole band contributes songs and ideas, Douglas acts as the band's musical director, making many arrangements and final decisions.

Next up is George Dymalski playing the bass. He has played in several different bands over the years, including regularly playing in the Park City Follies performed in the spring at the Egyptian Theatre in Park City. Currently, he is only down to two bands, which for him is very few. He is also the sound guy, doing the mixing when they need him to.

Primarily playing the tenor saxophone is Spencer Kellogg. You could say he was born to be a musician, having started playing the saxophone at age nine. He also plays guitar, electric bass, flute, clarinet, hand drum, mandolin, banjo and is even working on playing the oboe! He performs

in pit orchestras, regularly playing for the Salt Lake Acting Company. He is professionally trained, with a jazz performance degree from the University of Utah, where he currently works in their school of music.

Sitting on the drummer's stool is Ron Reich. He played drums as a child and into college but had to give up his musical pursuits for some time. Ron started a business, raised his children, and finally realized music fit into the mix. So, he decided to get back into the drumming life. He loves spending as much of his free time as possible rocking out on his drum kit and has earned accolades as one of Park City's best drummers.

On the guitar and one of the lead vocalists is Maura Hanrahan. Who took piano and acoustic guitar lessons in the past but had yet to do much with them. She decided to pursue a musical career after seeing an Earth Wind and Fire concert about ten years ago and thinking, "That's what I want. I want an electric guitar!" She started performing in a student band and inspired others to get back into the things they are passionate about. She has since developed her musical abilities tremendously and finds passion in expressing herself through music in a way she hadn't done before.

Lastly is Mark Conklin, on lead vocals and the frontman, playing various instruments. Musically he started playing drums in the fourth grade and continued into high school. However, Mark stopped playing to be an actor for some time, even living in New York and Los Angeles to act professionally. Mark actually got back into music when he started playing the drums in Douglas's praise band. Originally the drummer, he has moved up to the front to sing and be the face of their incredibly entertaining performances.

The Fuse puts on an amazing show. While they have recorded demos, they are more of a live-performance band. "We play a lot of songs that



are very familiar to people, and we try to do our own spin on them," says Conklin. "We're not just trying to copy them, you'll never sound just like the record, and we don't want to." For them, it's all about the performance! If you would like to see them perform, you can catch them at *Après Ski* at The Corner Store at PCMR on March 30th at 3 PM. Or you can always book them for private parties and other events through their website, thefuseparkcity.com, where you can find more information and recordings of some of their impressive performances!

"If music be the food of love, play on!"
- William Shakespeare