

## LOCAL TALENT

# Meet 14 Year-old Musician Mason Kutin

**M**ason Kutin is not your average teenager. At just 14 years old, he is already making waves in the local music scene with a level of talent and dedication that belies his age. As he prepares to start at Chesterton High School this fall, Mason's journey as a musician is just beginning to hit its stride.

Being part of the local music scene as a young artist has been a rewarding experience for Mason. "Everyone I work with treats me like I belong, not just some kid," he says. With the support of mentors, Mason continues to hone his craft and grow as a musician. "Being part of the local music scene is more than just playing gigs; it's like having a second family who encourages me and helps me grow."

Mason has always had a passion for music at a young age and began playing the guitar seven years ago. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he dedicated himself to the instrument more seriously and began taking lessons from local legend Marco Villarreal. Mason has also been mentored by renowned bass guitarist Ric Fierabracci, known for playing with Brian May from Queen; Chick Corea; and Blood, Sweat, and Tears, among others. Another mentor is renowned guitarist Jeff Kollman, known for his work with Alan Parsons.

Mason is currently involved in several exciting musical projects:



## Searching Fusion

A modern fusion band blending jazz, funk, rock, and progressive music. Mason's bandmates are Chris Peffers (Drummer, 22) and Gino Trujillo (Keyboardist, 22). "We are actively writing our own music," Mason says excitedly. Their performances include 219 Taproom on July 13 and Velvet Tiki Lounge on July 27. They will also play at the 30th Annual Summer Bash Hosted by the Spot Studio in Schneider on August 3.

## One Side of the Tracks

A classic rock cover band where Mason plays lead guitar. Past shows have been at the 219 Taproom and Zorn Brew Works. They have an upcoming show at The Quarry Ballroom on September 13. Mason's bandmates include Trista Mount (Singer), John Berich (Bass Guitar), Chuck Richardson (Drums), and Pete Johnson (Guitar).

## M.E.H.

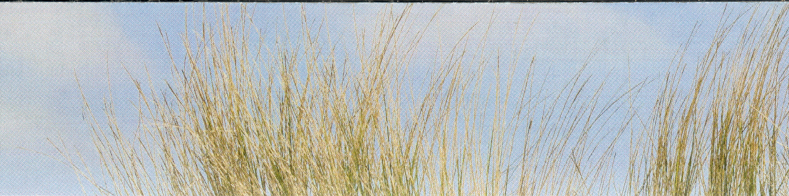
An '80s and '90s cover band initiated by local teacher Phil Dietrich. Mason plays lead guitar alongside John Arredondo (Lead Vocals), Steve Lopez (Rhythm Guitar), and Ronnie Rambo (Bass and Vocals).

## Solo Performances

Mason's solo performances showcase his versatility, with a style encompassing jazz, blues, and rock. Catch him at Figs and Fables on July 24, Goblin & the Grocer July 28, and the 219 Taproom August 24.

Mason thrives on the energy of live performances. "The energy that I receive from the people watching me play, and seeing their smiles and enjoyment, is incredible," he says. For Mason, playing live is about creating memorable moments and sharing experiences that transcend





the music itself. "When I see the crowd reacting, singing along, and genuinely enjoying themselves, it fuels my passion even more."

Mason is set to release his first solo song, "No Clue," featuring Ric Fierabracci on bass and Thomas Lang—who has played with renowned artists such as Paul Gilbert, Robert Fripp, Glenn Hughes, Peter Gabriel, and Tina Turner—on drums. This track will be available on Spotify and other streaming platforms soon. In addition, Mason maintains an active social media presence under "Rocken Guitar" on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. His bands, One Side of the Tracks and Searching Fusion, also have Facebook pages. For more information about Mason Kutin and his music, visit [rockenguitar.com](http://rockenguitar.com) or email him at [guitarrocken@gmail.com](mailto:guitarrocken@gmail.com). —*Lindsay Conner* ●



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