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[Family Junction](#)

By Anna Berezina

“[Family Junction](#)” has that off-beat hip funkiness that makes you want to dye your hair blue, wear dark-rimmed glasses, sit outside a tattoo parlor, smoke cigarettes and watch the world go by. At the same time they’re funny, approachable and adorkable ([that’s a new word I learned from The New York Times](#)). Here is what they have to say about themselves.

How would you describe your sound?

We’ve learned to telepathically transform each others’ minds into playing what we want to hear. We don’t read what each other play—we make each other play what we think.

What/who are your influences/inspirations?

We all listen to a lot of different music all the time, especially each others’...Frank Zappa, Prince, Radiohead, Salt ‘n’ Pepa, Gentle Giant, Daniel Harris, Alan Cohen Experience, Matt Ross, The State, Stella, Mr Show, David Cross, Sketchpad, Los Mustachios, Los Doggies, Duke Ellington, the Impossible Shapes, Arizona, Grizzly Bear, Pavement, the Slip, Self, Deerhoof, Cinematic Orchestra, Animal Collective, John Coltrane, A Tribe Called Quest, L’hiver, God Street Wine, The Roots...We’re all music vacuums Buffalo Chicken. Buffalo Chicken. Buffalo Chicken Cheese Steak.

How do you know each other? What is it like working together?

We all grew up together in some capacity.

Dan: Matt and I met at a Ren and Stimpy convention back in ‘87—we both showed up as “Poopy,” from Stimpy’s cartoon and fell in love. We started making music shortly thereafter.

Alan: Seth and I met at Steak and Hoagie in West Windsor, NJ over Buffalo chicken cheese steaks back in fifth grade.

Seth: Dan and I met over a heated frisbee game during color war at summer camp. The disc was down and one of us stepped on it—

Dan: —Which lead to one of us pushing the other one...we were about to throw down and then a counselor tackled Seth.

Seth: Exactly, Biron.

Matt: We’re still trying to figure out how Ryan showed up.

Alan: Who’s Ryan?

Ryan: Who am I?

Dan: Who?

Alan: Tommy.

Ryan: My name is Eric. Eric Orig.

Does music help you get the ladies?

Yes.

What makes you Jewish?

A mohel, a mogen clamp, and a scalpel.

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Welcome to Shebrew!

When I was eight I started in singing in the children's choir in the Opera and Ballet Theater in Novisibirsk, Russia. I loved being on stage, the costumes we got to wear and most of all, the music. I did it for almost 8 years, which now demonstrates itself in quirky habits like being able to hum along to the entire "Tosca". My mom told me then, that I may not appreciate it at the time, but much later in life I will always have to music that I can relate and connect to, no matter what, no matter where I am. Now i live across the world from my parents and friends i grew up with, and speak a different language. I've created a whole new life that doesn't always seem like it's very rooted in the past. And on my most difficult days, as well as my happiest days, you can find me listening to the music I connect to. I have a ton of opera on my ipod, I have different arias and musical pieces that go with my many different moods.

Recently I went out to karaoke with a group of people I barely knew (yeah, yeah, a little weird), and by the end of the night we were best friends. ABBA and show tunes have done it again.

I truly believe in the power of great music. This issue is all about it: about people that play it, people that produce it and people that listen to it - about YOU!

Enjoy,
love

Anna
Founding editor

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