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Biography

Beginnings

Drummer Andrew Liles, and bassist Bryan McLucas formed Funkle Ester as a side-project to gammaman, their Athens-based rock band. Andrew and Bryan, along with singer/guitarist Bobby Juarez had been playing around the Athens area since the fall of 2000.

If One weekend we were playing this show at the Engine Room," Bryan recalled. "Bobby had to run to the bar for some water in the middle of the set, so he asked me to stall until he got back. I started playing the bass line to the Rolling Stones' 'Miss You,' and as Andrew joined in on the drums everyone started dancing and singing along." The seed was planted for beginnings of a disco cover band.

Bobby wanted to concentrate on the rock scene, so Bryan recruited friend, drinking buddy and guitarist / vocalist Lamont Antieau to join the cover band. "Disco?!?," Lamont quipped. "You've got to be kidding me... I was burning disco records in the '70s." Ever the good sport, Lamont humored Bryan and gave disco another go-round.

// Meredith Davey [now

McLucas] and I have a mutual friend, Sherry, who we were out drinking with the first night that we met," Bryan remembered hazily. "Sherry said, 'hey Meredith wants to sing for your disco band!" "Yeah, okay, " he



t's really funny how James ended up in the band. Funkle needed a keyboard player, so Bryan called up "Athens' own disco/ dance cover band plays your favorite

'70s hits. The polyester-ed 8-piece features multiple vocalists and a live horn line, so put on your vintage threads and come join the party."



his childhood friend and fellow musician, **Cory Jones**. "Know any keyboard players?" Bryan inquired. "Yeah," Cory affirmed, "there's one renting my basement. I don't know if he's any good, but he sure has one sweet keyboard!" Turns out, he was fantastic. James was in.

With the additions of horn players
Tom Meehan, David
Bryant and Jason Sneath, the
opening lineup was set for the first
Funkle Ester show on May 22nd, 2002.

The Horn Section

n attendance at the very first show was one **Russ Sauvé**. Immediately after the performance, Russ asked Bryan, "Hey, do you guys need a manager?" After Bryan politely declined, Russ was ready with his next query: "Hey, do you guys need a trumpet player?" Since Jason was only temporary, his second offer worked out great. Funkle Ester had their permanent trumpet player before they even started looking.

D ave Bryant played in Funkle Ester's debut performance.



As that first gig was approaching, there was still no sax player. Bryan called his childhood friend D.B. and asked if he would mind sitting in until a permanent saxaphonist could be found. "Sure," Dave replied, "just let me go get my sax out of my parent's attic... I haven't played it since the 10th grade." Dave has been playing in the band ever since.

Late in 2002, when Tom finished his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, the Funkles began their search for a new 'boner.

Russ knew a guy. Dave Daly is not only a great tromboner, but an excellent vocalist and arranger. Dave came to the band so early, it seems like he's been there since the beginning.

The Guitar Situation

Over the years, the lineup has remained relatively stable... except for guitar players. With the departure of Lamont for Mississippi in 2004, the search was on for a replacement.

Dale Inglett answered an ad in the Flagpole, and after a quick audition he was in.

Dale lasted until he departed (also for a teaching position in Mississippi) in the Spring of 2006. Meredith knew a couple of guitarists from another band and asked if either of them would like to join. Drew McKercher answered the call. The native Missisippian (good to get one back from that state) is enjoying his status as "the new quy."

Continuing the mission that started during an unexpected intermission: have a good time, and make people dance.

Members

David Bryant	saxophone
David Daly	trombone, vocals
Meredith Davey	lead vocals
• Drew McKercher	guitar, vocals
Andrew Liles	drums
Bryan McLucas	bass, vocals
Russ Sauvé	trumpet
James Sewell	keyboards





www.funkleester.com 3

Playlist

Billboard

Song	Artist	Year of Release, Peak	Top Chart Position
Ain't No Mountain High Enough	Marvin Gaye & Tammy Terrell	1967, 4/67	#19 Pop, #3 R&B
Son of a Preacher Man	Dusty Springfield	1969, 01/18/69	#10
Ramble On	Led Zeppelin	1969	Not a single
Vehicle	The Ides of March	1970, 05/23/70	#2
25 or 6 to 4	Chicago	1970, 09/12/70	#4
Rock and Roll	Led Zeppelin	1972	Not a single
The Ocean	Led Zeppelin	1973	Not a single
Superstition	Stevie Wonder	1972, 01/27/73	#1
Right Place Wrong Time	Dr. John	1973, 06/30/73	#9
Let's Get it On	Marvin Gaye	1973, 09/08/73	#1
Jungle Boogie	Kool & the Gang	1973, 03/09/74	#4
Pick Up the Pieces	Average White Band	1975, 02/22/75	#1
Lady Marmalade	LaBelle	1975, 03/29/75	#1
Shining Star	Earth Wind and Fire	1975, 05/24/75	#1
The Hustle	Van McCoy	1975, 07/26/75	#1
Jive Talkin'	Bee Gees	1975, 08/09/75	#1
Get Down Tonight	KC & the Sunshine Band	1975, 08/30/75	#1
That's the Way (I Like It)	KC & the Sunshine Band	1975, 11/22/75	#1
Love Rollercoaster	Ohio Players	1975, 01/31/76	#1
You Sexy Thing	Hot Chocolate	1976, 02/07/76	#3
Evil Woman	Electric Light Orchestra	1976, 02/14/76	#10
December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)	The Four Seasons	1976, 03/13/76	#1
More, More, More (Pt. 1)	Andrea True Connection	1976, 07/17/76	#4
You Should Be Dancing	Bee Gees	1976, 09/04/76	#1
(Shake, Shake, Shake)Shake Your Booty	KC & the Sunshine Band	1976, 09/11/76	#1
Play that Funky Music	Wild Cherry	1976, 09/18/76	#1
Another Star	Stevie Wonder	1976, 00/00/77	#32
I Wish	Stevie Wonder	1976, 01/22/77	#1
Car Wash	Rose Royce	1976, 01/29/77	#1 Pop, #1 R&B
Baby Love	Mother's Finest	1977	#58
Disco Inferno	The Trammps	1977, 02/77	#11 Pop, #9 R&B
Don't Leave Me This Way	Thelma Houston	1 <mark>976, 04/23/77</mark>	#1
Sir Duke	Stevie Wonder	1977, 05/21/77	#1
Got to Be Real	Cheryl Lynn	1978, 08/77	#12 Pop, #1 R&B
Best of My Love	The Emotions	1977, 08/20/77	#1
Brick House	Commodores	1977, 11/05/7 <mark>7</mark>	#5

4 booking@funkleester.com

Song	Artist	Year of Release, Peak	Top Chart Position
Night Fever	Bee Gees	1977, 03/18/78	#1
Boogie Shoes	KC & the Sunshine Band	1978, 04/01/78	#35
Miss You	The Rolling Stones	1978, 08/05/78	#1
Boogie Oogie Oogie	A Taste of Honey	1978, 09/09/78	#1
I Love the Nightlife (Disco 'Round)	Alicia Bridges	1978, 12/23/78	#5
Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?	Rod Stewart	1979, 02/10/79	#1
I Will Survive	Gloria Gaynor	1978, 03/10/79	#1 Pop, #4 R&B
Shake Your Groove Thing	Peaches & Herb	1979, 03/17/79	#5
Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)	Jacksons	1979, 05/19/79	#7
Hot Stuff	Donna Summer	1979, 06/02/79	#1
Ring my Bell	Anita Ward	1979, 06/30/79	#1
Bad Girls	Donna Summer	1979, 07/14/79	#1
Don't Stop ('till You Get Enough)	Michael Jackson	1979, 10/13/79	#1
Fool in the Rain	Led Zeppelin	1979, 12/79	Not a single
Take Your Time (Do It Right)	S.O.S. Band	1980, 08/16/80	#3 Pop, #1 R&B
Upside Down	Diana Ross	1980, 09/06/80	#1
Another One Bites the Dust	Queen	1980, 10/04/80	#1
I'm Coming Out	Diana Ross	1980, 11/15/80	#5 Pop, #6 R&B
The Tide is High	Blondie	1981, 01/31/81	#1
Rapture	Blondie	1981, 03/28/81	#1
Give it to Me Baby	Rick James	1981, 06/13/81	#40 Pop, #1 R&B
Let's Groove	Earth Wind and Fire	1981, 12/19/81	#3
You Dropped a Bomb on Me	Gap Band	1982	#31 Pop, #1 R&B
Sexual Healing	Marvin Gaye	1983, 01/29/83	#3



www.funkleester.com 5

Members

Meredith McLucas

Our divalicious lead singer met Bryan through a mutual friend in late 2001. "So I hear you're starting a disco band," she queried, "you'd better not start one without me!" Two months later Funkle Ester had its first practice and a star was born.

As it turns out, Meredith studied voice at both Syracuse University and the University of Maryland. She spent a couple of years in the karaoke circuit once she got to Athens, but she was anxious to perform with a live band. Funkle Ester was the perfect fit for her powerful voice and she's been wowing the crowds ever since.

Bryan McLucas

Our intrepid leader. Bryan and Andrew started Funkle Ester as a fun side project to gammaman, another band they were in together. That band is no more, but Funkle Ester lives on!

Bryan books the band, plays bass, provides backing vocals and sings lead on a few tunes.

Andrew Liles

Backbeat wizard Andrew along with bassist Bryan started Funkle Ester in early 2002 on a lark, but the beat goes on today.

Andrew has honed his craft in bands like Seizmic, the Earth Gods

James Sewell

Sweet Baby James. The youngest Funkle joined the band at it's outset. Bryan called his friend Cory to see if he knew any keyboard players. "Yeah," he affirmed, "there's this kid renting my basement. I don't know if he can play or not, but he's got one sweet keyboard."

Sweet indeed, and it turns out James' chops were equally as sweet. We're lucky he found time for us between studying Piano Perfomance at UGA's School of Music and weekend jams with other local artists.





Anative Mississippian, Drew started in with the band in early '06. He spent several years as a frontman for several bands then moved to Athens in September of '05 with his soon-to-be wife Sara to pursue a music career. A purveyor of funk since age 14, Drew contributes superfly stabs and bluesy leads to the Disco Machine.

Dave Daly

AKA "Vitamin D." Dave joined the band in January of 2003 and has been with us ever since.

Dave's our tromboner, backing vocalist and primary horn arranger. He also sings lead on a few tunes, as well as a sultry duet with Meredith on "Ain't no mountain high enough." Yet another UGA School of Music alum, he's got talent to burn.

Russ Sauvé

Trumpeter, acrobat. Ever since Russ got his new wireless mic for his trumpet, we can't seem to keep him off the furniture. He's either got really good balance, or he's not much of a drinker. Come to a show and find out which.

n addition to his scorching trumpet skills, Russ adds funky percussion rhythms and enough cowbell to satisfy Christopher Walken.

David Bryant

Zoot incarnate? Dave was asked to join the band about a week before the very first show. Funkle Ester didn't have a sax player, so Bryan called up his longtime buddy and asked if he could sit in. "Sure," Dave says, "I'll just run down to my parent's attic and grab my sax that's been sitting there since the 10th grade." No worries, though, because Dave's just one of those cats that can play anything you put in his hands.

In addition to his horn duties, Dave and his wife Whitney provide 90% of the photography for the band. He is perhaps most famous for his smokin' sax solo on "Miss You" and the recorder solos on "The Hustle."

"The Hustle."

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7



Thank you for your interest. Funkle Ester is available for club dates, private parties, corporate events, weddings and just about any time you want to get the party going. Please contact us about availability and pricing.



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