

# RYAN BALES BAND

by: Chelsea Anderson

A small crowd was gathered at Saengerhalle for an all day acoustic event. The room was filled with melancholy talk of the upcoming close of the legendary New Braunfels dancehall, and the many good times had there. Fans and musicians alike were more than aware that the days of live music, barbeques, and volleyball were shortly numbered. However, even at the near close of the evening, the audience had stayed distanced from the stage, forming that awkward "invisible line" that sometimes occurs at shows. In true Ryan Bales fashion, his enthusiasm and rare ability to connect to his listeners finally broke the ice. "Grab your chairs and get up here to the stage," invited the singer/songwriter. "Saengerhalle has been a great place to hear music for a long time, let's make this night something to remember." With little hesitation, several rows of fans finally gathered around the performers. A new energy filled the room through the end of the night.

Ryan Bales Band is known throughout its grassroots following for exactly what took place in that moment. Unfortunately, Saengerhalle closed its doors as a haven for live music shortly thereafter. On the other hand, the end of Saenger, may its legend live on, has been closely followed by the quick uprising of the Ryan Bales Band as a force to be reckoned with in Texas music and abroad. The months of September and October will bring about so many changes for this dynamic band, it's hard to know where to begin.

My personal introduction to Ryan Bales Band's music began over a year ago, when I saw Ryan perform another acoustic event impromptu with Brandon Rhyder. I couldn't help but be drawn to his interesting dichotomy on stage. That strong connectivity to his audience coupled with a rock-n-roll delivery of his country songs seemed to show all the makings of a potential success story. Around a year later, I was asked to join the Ryan Bales Band team as the acting publicist for "Revival", the band's first full length, independent album. Naturally, I said yes, with no reservations. The Stars of Texas magazine gave me the chance to write about my friends and coworkers, and give the readers an insider's view of the summer of changes and the opportunity which lies ahead for this promising band. Obviously, I said yes again, with no reservations.

A quick glance over the band's upcoming tour dates leaves no doubt that things are heating up, and rather quickly at that. "Are you guys nervous? Anxious?" I asked Ryan, guitarist Cody Brown, and drummer Clay Oliver as we sat around Bales' kitchen table to start talking about the story. The question was met with wide eyed head nods, and sentiments that the whole thing really hadn't settled in their heads yet.



It's easy to see why the upcoming schedule wouldn't have had time to settle yet. In September alone, Ryan Bales Band will play thirteen shows, including opening slots for Lynard Skynard, Drive-By Truckers, and Cross Canadian Ragweed. The month will also start their tour with another group on a steady rise, their friends Full Throttle. Aside from the dates, Ryan Bales Band recently teamed up with the rock solid Smith Music Distribution, who will release the fan-favorite single "Heartbreaker" on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The recent departure of their long time bass player had brought some added waves of uneasiness to the table, but the band felt the situation would be quickly rectified.

Just in time to kick off the tour, Ryan, Cody, and Clay have welcomed seasoned musician Danny G (formerly with Southern Gun Culture) into the mix.

A Corpus native now living in Austin, Danny G presented all the elements of what the band was looking for in a bassist, and the band can't wait to get started on the tour.

The songs of Ryan Bales Band are composed of the unique elements of each band

member. The guys actually put forth the effort to write music together as a unit. Spending time with them, it is clear that they are real friends with a mutual respect for what each individual has to offer the song, recording, and performance. As the conversation centered around musical influences, polar opposite band names started to pop up into the conversation. (See list: 10 Albums Everyone Should Own, for further input on this.)

Regardless, everyone gets their say, and compromises are quickly made.

Honestly, during our "interview" session, we did more laughing and joking than anything else. There was no shortage of Will Ferrell and "Ricky Bobby" quoting, an abundance of brotherly-like mockery of each other, and many failed attempts at conducting ourselves in a "professional" manner. That wouldn't be pertinent to the story if that wasn't such an accurate reflection of who the band is, and what they bring to their audience. The Ryan Bales Band prides itself in giving its ticket holder's a good time, in its most honest form. They love music, they love to party with their friends and fans, and they don't take themselves too seriously. Live music is about great songs and being entertained, and you can count on these guys to deliver it to you every time you hold a ticket in your hand.



October 2, "Revival" will be released by Smith Music across the state. The band will spend much of that time in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas, where they have built a strong following after only a few trips to the general area. "I'm just so excited to see the album in stores," says Ryan, "to see what will happen to it when more fans can get a hold of it." Until then, the cd will remain for sale at its original home, [www.Lonestarmusic.com](http://www.Lonestarmusic.com). Since its independent release in April, "Revival" has held steady ground on the Top 25 Sellers list at Lonestar, proving to be an album that is going to fight for its survival.

Don't miss Ryan Bales Band on tour with Full Throttle this month and through October. With a newer, stronger lineup and big things on the horizon, this young band is sure to come into their own and show the Americana music world what they've really got for more info and dates visit [www.RyanBalesBand.com](http://www.RyanBalesBand.com) CA

**Nine Albums Everyone Should Own According to Ryan Bales Band:**

1. Led Zeppelin - IV
2. Willie Nelson - Greatest Hits
3. Guns N Roses - Appetite for Destruction
4. Garth Brooks - No Fences
5. Black Crowes - Shake Your Money Maker
6. Robert Earl Keen - Live No. 2
7. Mike McClure - Everything Upside Down
8. Foo Fighters - The Colour and the Shape
9. Lynyrd Skynyrd - (pronounced leh-nerd skin-nerd)

**Catch the Ryan Bales band at one of these upcoming Hill Country dates:**

- 6th - Stubb's ~ Austin, TX
- 8th - Lucy's ~ San Marcos, TX
- 16th - Rolling Oaks Sports Bar ~ San Antonio, TX

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