THE POWER TRIO: Area band "*run with me*" is made up of Carter Pennell, Brock Pate, and Cole Pilgrim. The trio will play a release concert on July 26, at the Newton Conover Auditorium.

The Music Men

BY BAILEY SHERRILL

It's 3 a.m. The lights are off and the house is quiet. Except it isn't. Inside its basement closet, padded with blankets and bulky sound equipment, three college freshmen are at work, making music.

Carter Pennell, Brock Pate, and Cole Pilgrim aren't just dabblers. They're artists. In fact, they're a band. Known as *"run with me"*, the three instrumentalists met one another in high school, where the deepest of friendships often take root.

Formerly attending Alexander Central and playing percussion in the band, Carter Pennell speaks up about transferring to University Christian High School and being "kind of upset at the fact that UCHS didn't have a school band; but after meeting these guys, I thought, 'hey, now I can be in rock band.' Even cooler."

Turns out, he was right. The trio's first performance was a 45-minute headliner set at their senior prom. That performance – in front of the hot stage lights and mosh pit of UCHS students – was the spark. Brock was magic

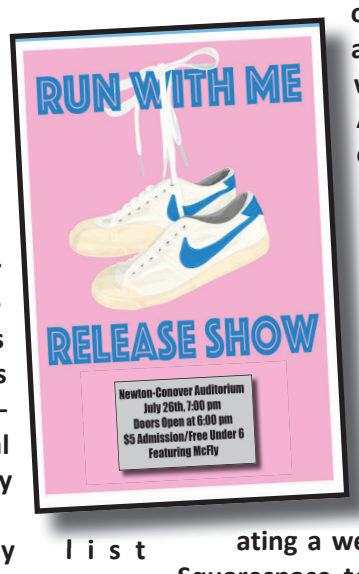
on the guitar. Carter was a force on the drums. And Cole played his bass with the best of them.

Soon enough, they were playing sets at other high school proms, friends' graduation parties, and public venues in downtown Hickory like Café Rule and the YMCA Teen Center. Then, they were still performing covers.

But that all changed in the summer. With college quickly approaching – Brock departing for Provo, UT to attend Brigham Young University, Cole and Carter to UNC Asheville – the group agreed to craft an EP. It would serve as a tribute, a way to cap off an unforgettable time together.

Create they did. By the time July of 2018 rolled around, they had adopted their official "*run with me*" alias and released their first 4-song EP dubbed "*I Met A Seer*." Compiled of songs that each of the guys had written separately, the EP displayed the three guys' different voices and lyrical writing styles.

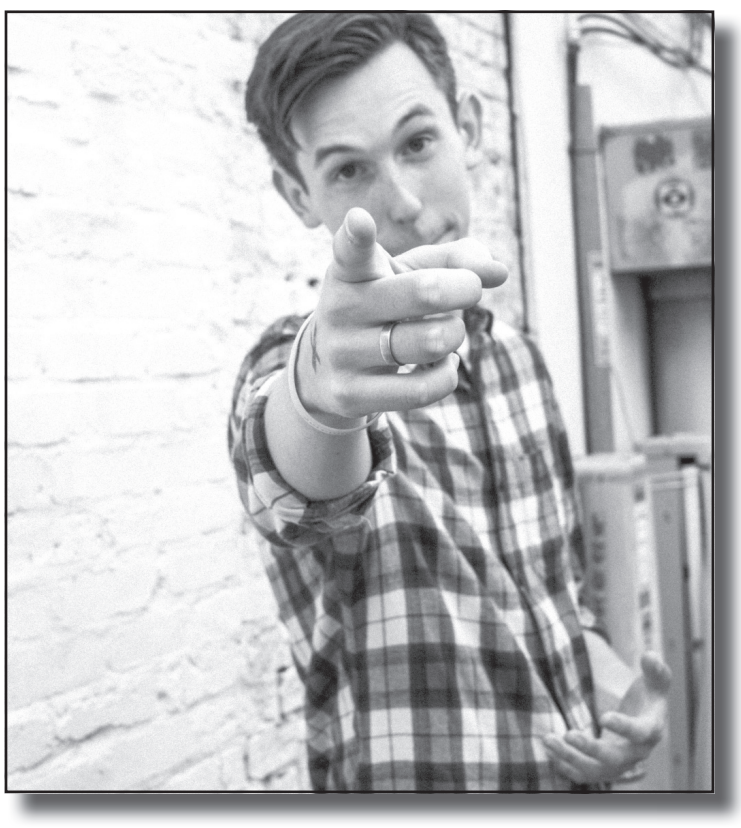
Their music then, and evolved now, would be classified as indie, indie rock. It's amped echoes and reverb and deep thrums on the bass strings. The high chords of a live guitar wire dance like fireflies across their music staves and their voices – notice the plural used – are ghostly and subtle.



When they list their influences, the jigsaw fits. You can hear the deep, dark lyrics of Scottish rock ballads, the electric razz of British bands like The 1975, and threads of a 1980's Bruce Springsteen.

Much has changed, though, since last summer. Brock, did, in fact, move to Provo. Cole and Carter not only became roommates but co-songwriters and confidants. The guys, collectively, spent months and months writing long-distance – Carter and Cole writing, Brock putting them to music. And sometimes, those roles blurred and were reversed.

The group's second EP entitled "*Deer Run Film Club*" – set to release on July 26th at the Newton-Conover Auditorium – is their biggest venue yet. To get there, they improved their small band operations in every way. They opted for a homemade recording studio instead of one that charged by the hour. Carter switched to guitar and vocals, after a life behind the drum set. The group increased its activity on Instagram and worked with an UNCA Art student to create a band poster and decorative stickers. They outsourced the editing of their music to a top-notch online mixer. They even tackled creating a website through Squarespace to launch prior to their July show.



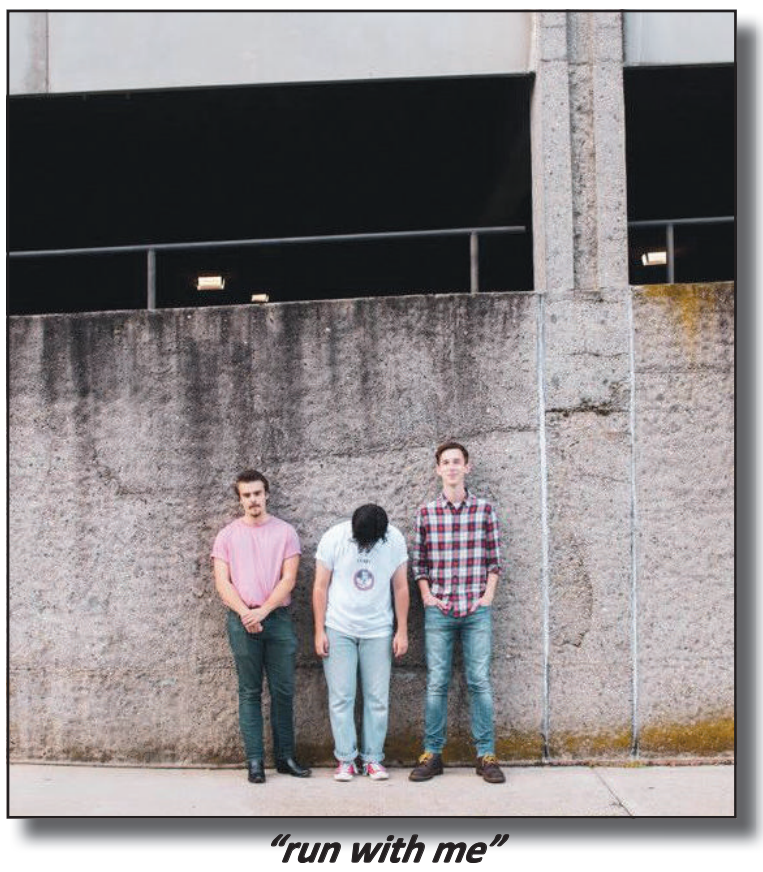
The Electric Fingertips of Brock Pate...

But this three-man band isn't here just to put on a show. They're here for the music. Don't get it wrong, these guys love to perform. In fact, they're itching for house lights to go down and the spotlight to cue on July 26th. But they have a passion and a throbbing desire to write, to express, to make music.

A pair of off-white Nike sneakers with a baby-blue swoosh dangle from Carter's closet doors and the band poster taped to the wall. It's 3 a.m. The lights are off and the house is quiet. Except it isn't. Carter Pennell jerks awake – hands gripping the covers – and sits up straight. He's had a dream. A dream that would make an excellent song. And he can't resist or deny the urge. Inside his bedroom, gripping a lead pencil and his favorite notebook, a third of "*run with me*" is at work, making music.

Jack of all Kicks, Carter Pennell...

Cole Pilgrim on the Strings...



"run with me"