



Bill Lord, founder and executive director of the Global Z Recording Project, shown recently outside his home in Urbana.

Staff photo by Graham Cullen

Music’s vast reach

Thriving Urbana-based Global Z Recording Project partnering with tribal groups in second phase

By GRAHAM CULLEN
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Bill Lord seems well-suited for this particular moment in time. Long before millions of Americans began acclimating themselves to the intricacies of telecommuting and remote learning, he was specializing in distance learning.

In 2015, Lord, who has a doctorate in adult education from North Carolina State University, founded the Global Z Recording Project, a nonprofit organization seeking to affect social change through recording music and building connections over vast distances. From his home in Urbana, Lord coordinates a small team, which is scattershot around the country as they work to build partnerships and remotely record artists who live in disparate locations.

“Essentially, what we’re designed to do is discover talented student musicians from highly diverse cultural backgrounds,” he said, “and bring them together in a virtual environment to record original music ... Music is essentially the foundation for what we do.”

Music as a connector

After successfully recording performances in Frederick and Colorado, with the organization’s audio engineer directing the effort from Towson, the group is moving onto its second, more ambitious phase.

Phase II, referred to as the North American Indigenous Music Project, looks to build connections between tribal communities in the U.S. and Canada.

“We wanted to choose a group of marginalized folks [and provide] them a chance to be seen and heard,” Lord said.

Identifying communities of Indigenous people with whom to partner, and building trust with the tribal leaders, Lord said, has been one of the biggest hurdles.

To help with the effort, he reached out to Kelly Laurila, a lecturer at Wilfrid Laurier University and Renison University, both in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Laurila has a PhD in social work and wrote her dissertation on issues pertaining to Indigenous people in Canada. She now advises Global Z and helps build relationships with their target audience.

“I like the principles, or the values, of Global Z because it is using music as the common connector to really reach out to the diversity of the population,” she said, adding that Canadian Indigenous groups are quite similar to those in the U.S.

In fact, the goal of the phase II project is one that



Photo by Bill Lord

Max Stratyner, a student in Frederick County Public Schools’ Academy for the Fine Arts, performs on the guitar as part of Global Z’s phase I project in October of 2018.

resonates with Laurila — perhaps more than others — because her grandfather was a member of the Sámi people, an Indigenous group in northern Finland.

To build the trust necessary to work with the various Indigenous groups and connect them through music, Lord has prioritized building relationships within those communities.

“We want to make sure that we’re presenting ourselves in an honest and transparent light,” he said. “And make sure we get the support of the tribal leaders; that they endorse us and say, ‘our youth can participate in this project.’”

He added that it’s crucial that the group understand issues affecting Indigenous peoples

“There are tremendous cultural differences between the Western world and Indigenous people,” Lord said. “Essentially, all of our project wording,

communication strategies, [learning management system] content, and project management processes have been vetted by [Laurila] to help ensure we meet the needs of the Indigenous student participants, their tribes, and the project. Her input has been incredibly valuable.”

Funding sources

As the Global Z team works toward launching the Indigenous music initiative — Lord said the goal is to begin at the end of spring or early summer — they are focusing on acquiring all of the recording equipment and developing best practices for participants.

And because the technology requirements represent the largest cost for the project, the group sought out funding to make sure would-be participants don’t have a financial barrier.

Thanks to a series of grants from The Delaplaine Foundation, The Nora Roberts Foundation and The Mockingbird Foundation, the organization was able to cobble together enough funds to move forward.

The Mockingbird Foundation, which was founded in 1996 by fans of the band Phish to help raise money for music education for children, awarded Global Z two \$5,000 grants in what Ellis Godard, the foundation’s executive director, said is more competitive than National Institutes of Health grants.

Global Z was one of only 16 recipients out of almost 1,000 grant applications.

While several charitable foundations exist to get musical instruments into schools that cannot afford them, Godard said The Mockingbird Foundation looks for projects that might fall through the cracks.

“We like these little niche, unusual [projects] where the small amount of money we have can make a big difference in something that isn’t getting the attention it deserves,” he said. “And Global Z looks like that kind of program.”

At a time when music education programs have been financially squeezed by a lack of fundraising opportunities and tightening education budgets, Godard said he hears from all kinds of programs seeking some of the limited grant money available.

“In the short term,” he said, “It’s going to be a bloodbath.”

But Global Z’s North American Indigenous Music Project rose to the top of the crowded field.

“So between the three of them, we were able to

(See **PROJECT B3**)

Frederick Rock-School
hosting virtual charity
concert this weekend

MUSIC

Let there be livestream

Want to listen to some good music and support local charities this weekend? Tune in Saturday and Sunday to either the Frederick Rock-School or News-Post Facebook page to hear more

than 30 bands rock out in support of The Frederick Food Bank and musical education nonprofit Rhythm Changes. The Let There Be Rock School is hosting and livestreaming the event, which will

take place at a building inside the Frederick Fairgrounds. Performances are set from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday with specific time slots for each band. For

more information, including the list of bands, go to the Frederick Rock-School Facebook page at facebook.com/887712551280622/?ps/3982364235148756/?d=n.

MUSIC

New EP:
The Scott Day Band ‘TRUST’



By MALLORY PANUSKA
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The Scott Day Band has been around a long time.

A Jefferson resident, frontrunner Scott Day started the Christian group in 2003. Today, while most of the members have changed, the band is still going strong and recently released a six-song EP.

Day shared some details via email about the band and the EP, which is available on CD and for streaming through Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and most other digital sources.

The band: Currently the band consists of Tony Langston on bass guitar from Braddock Heights (the lone remaining original member, besides me of course); Tim Carl on drums from Taneytown; Gayle Swenson on keyboard and vocals from Damascus; Kris Swenson on lead guitar and vocals, also from Damascus; Jess McClain from Woodsboro on vocals (Jess is a Spanish/French language teacher at Tuscarora High School); and lastly me from Jefferson on rhythm guitar, vocals, trombone and whatever else I can find to play. The band is very generationally diverse in that our ages range from the early 30’s to the mid-60’s.

The EP: Our new EP, ‘TRUST,’ is the result of two years of hard, sometimes frustrating but ultimately satisfying work. It was recorded at Tonal Park Studio in Tacoma Park with Luke Rohwer of Acacia Recording which is based in Mount Airy. Luke has a very extensive and impressive list of recordings with groups mainly in the gospel music genre. The music on ... ‘TRUST’ displays the wide range of musical styles our band performs. A little rock, a little New Orleans style jazz, a little pop and a little worship style music. All the songs are originals with five of the songs being written by Jess McClain and



Courtesy photos

John Ebersole aka TitanBlue Jess McClain, vocalist for The Scott Day Band.

one by Gayle Swenson.

How to listen: For a short promo video that gives you a taste of all six of the songs on “TRUST,” go to drive.google.com/file/d/1bkKde4eiz4yYks7n0dR5R-BOuZ6ah23PU/view.

All the songs are also available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and most other digital sources.

CDs are available for purchase at scottdayband.com as well as at live shows when the band is able to resume performing. The group also has Facebook and Instagram pages.

CALENDAR

Friday Feb. 5

CLASSES

Art of the Cocktail via Zoom – 7 p.m. at Catocin Creek Distillery Co., 120 W. Main St., Purcellville, Va. Cocktails using vegetables. \$10 person. 540-751-8404. www.catocincreekdistilling.com.

GALLERY

“Pandemonium: Life Today ... And Hope For Tomorrow” – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Frederick Health Women’s Crestwood Center Art Gallery, 7211 Bank Court, Frederick. Through May 7. Original art, including oil, watercolor, mixed media and photography, from some of Frederick’s most talented artists. Gallery open Monday through Friday. 240-215-1460. acrestwood@frederick.health.

“Visible” – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Delaplaine Arts Center, 40 S. Carroll St., Frederick. Pit-fired sculpture by Christopher Corson. 301-698-0656. tryan@delaplaine.org. delaplaine.org.

Saturday Feb. 6

ETCETERA

Winter Lecture Series: Treasures from the Battlefield, Artifacts in the Collection – 9 a.m. at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa. Digital program at www.nps.gov/gett. Series continues through March 27. www.nps.gov/gett.

First Saturday: Fire In Ice (Modified Event for 2021) – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Downtown, Frederick. Ice Walk of sculptures, shopping and dining. See website for details. www.downtownfrederick.org.

GALLERY

“A Symphony in Pastel” – 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. at DISTRICT Arts, 15 N. Market St., Frederick. Soft pastel paintings by Jean Hiron.

Gallery open Wednesday through Sunday. Exhibit open through Feb. 28. 301-695-4050. staci@districtarts.com. www.districtarts.com/special-exhibitions.

Maryland Pastel Society Exhibit: “Symphony in Color” – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Delaplaine Arts Center, 40 S. Carroll St., Frederick. Original, soft pastel paintings showcasing this versatile medium’s styles and techniques. Continues daily through March 28. 301-698-0656. tryan@delaplaine.org. delaplaine.org/exhibitions/current-exhibits/.

Print Show: “A Mutual Interest” – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Frederick Arts Council Art Center, 5 E. Second St., Frederick. Works by artists Johnny Carrera, Terrence Hannum, Suzy Kopf, Priyanka Kumar, Rebecca Marimutu, Lisa Sheirer, Rhonda Smith and Corrine Wilson. Also open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. 301-662-4190. www.frederickartscouncil.org.

Sunday Feb. 7

ETCETERA

Public Invited to Participate in Frederick Presbyterian’s Drive-by Food Drive – 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Frederick Presbyterian Church, 115 W. Second St., Frederick. All donations benefit clients of the City of Frederick Food Bank. 301-663-5338. youth@frederickpresbyterian.org. frederickpresbyterian.org/.

GALLERY

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Targeting musicians from diverse backgrounds

(PROJECT from B1)

piece together enough funds to actually go ahead and make this thing happen,” Lord said.

Connecting and collaborating

Jonathan Cresci, Global Z’s director of audio productions, is responsible for technical aspects of recording participants who are sometimes thousands of miles away.

He holds a doctor of music arts degree from The University of Memphis and was the program manager for audio production at Frederick Community College. Today, he still teaches online courses for FCC from his home in Little Rock, Arkansas.

“It’s important to me because ... we’re expanding the role of music in people’s lives,” Cresci said. “And so, we were using technology, which is something that I’m very passionate about, to try to connect people.”

During his time at FCC Cresci involved his students in the Global Z projects. He had them help test and build a database of various microphones so they could identify which hardware would be optimal for various recording environments and also recruited students for the actual recording of phase I of the project, for which one of his students created an original song.

Cresci noted how it took having a pandemic for so many people to embrace something the group had already been doing – connecting groups over the internet and collaborating on recording music in disparate locations.

“This is bringing that to everyone, so everybody

can ... experience that; where you get people from all over the world of different cultures together to ... create music and show that we can do that kind of collaboration,” he said. “It’s just very cool.”

Cresci’s experience traveling the world performing on the trumpet helped influence the work he does with Global Z.

“It didn’t really matter whether you spoke the language [of] wherever you were,” he said. “If you were in a music rehearsal, you could sit down and you

essentially is a volunteer — is with the United States Department of Agriculture as a senior training specialist for distance learning. While communication over the internet has long been at the heart of his work, professional and academic, it wasn’t until relatively recently that an idea he had finally germinated.

“I realized that the technology wouldn’t support what I wanted to do back [in grad school]. So I had to wait for the technology and the bandwidth really to catch up.”

“Essentially, what we’re designed to do is discover talented student musicians from highly diverse cultural backgrounds and bring them together in a virtual environment to record original music ... Music is essentially the foundation for what we do.”

BILL LORD, founder and executive director of the Global Z Recording Project

could perform with somebody and understand everything that they were doing, just from that shared language of what music is.”

The effect of international travel on one’s embrace of different cultures is something Lord also experienced. When he was a child, Lord traveled abroad with his father, who worked for IBM’s global division.

“Even at a young age, I was really intrigued by cultural differences, and got to experience those and meet people from different cultures,” he said.

Lord’s full time job — everyone with Global Z

Now that it has, the group is eager to begin connecting musicians from some of the 574 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska native tribes and 630 First Nations the Canadian government recognizes.

When the recording for the Indigenous music project finally begins, students will take part in facilitated discussion in a learning management system and teach the nascent musicians some best practices for recording.

“So we’re teaching them new skills that they can carry with them as artists as they move forward,” Lord said.



Meet Bob. When it comes to local businesses, businesspeople and organizations in Frederick, Bob’s knows best. Here, he presents a personal interview with a 2020 Best of the Best winner or finalist about why they love what they do, helping those they serve and working in Frederick.

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BOB HISTORY

- ▶ **2017** – Finalist, Best Financial Planning Company
- ▶ **2019-2020** – Finalist, Best Financial Planning Company
- ▶ **2020** – Winner, Best Financial Planner

WHEN DID YOUR BUSINESS OPEN IN FREDERICK?

This year marks a historic anniversary for our office, staff and clients. Our office first opened nearly 40 years ago, to begin providing financial planning and investment advisory services to the Frederick community. I joined the firm 20 years ago as an advisor, then becoming a partner, and eventually owner. Finally, 10 years ago, we retired the previous firm’s name and introduced McCaskill Financial. So 2021 brings a very unique “40-20-10 Anniversary” to our staff and client family.

We remain committed to providing trusted investment advice and comprehensive financial planning services to our clients and our community, and continue to operate in our same office at 220 West Patrick Street in historic downtown Frederick.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

I have often been asked the question of what sets our business apart, and I often have to go outside our firm to find the answer. Our friends, colleagues and business partners always give us the same answer, telling us that our outstanding client service and focus on taking care of our clients, have given us this strong reputation in our community. We value the feedback we receive from our business partners, and use it to grow and improve the services we provide.

We were thrilled and honored last year, to be named “Top Financial Planner” by both The Frederick News Post’s ‘Best of the Best’ and Frederick Magazine’s ‘Best of Frederick’. Our McCaskill Financial family celebrated the news, but not because we swept the category, but because it showed that the Frederick community values the work that we do, and people and families from various backgrounds, wanted to recognize our efforts.

