

## **Coming Home: Rustic Overtones recognize their roots for upcoming show**

Alan Bennett

**Originally published Feb. 23, 2015**

Take a band that's played for 20 years. Give them just a stand, a microphone, an amp and maybe a light or two, and what happens?

Most bands would shake their heads in disbelief. Where are the lasers? Where are the costumes? For Portland, Maine-based Rustic Overtones, it's just another show.

"We kind of put on a no-frills rock show for a long time. Sometimes there's a big light show or sometimes there's one light," Dave Gutter, lead singer of Rustic Overtones, said. "We don't have video screens and all that, it's just about the music."

And after 20 years of playing together, one of Maine's well-known rock bands is ready to show it. In December the group released "The Mood Box", a four-disc compilation of more than 70 songs from throughout the group's career, as well as some new ones.

"Rustic is a band that has been all over the place stylistically. If you listen to one of our records it sounds like ADHD," Gutter said. "There's a whole bunch of different genres that we tap into."

"The Mood Box" is divided, by disc, into themed sections. Gutter explains one CD will feature rock music, another will feature mellow songs and another will feature popular songs spanning the band's career. The fourth disc, the Fan Box, will feature rare live performances and previously unreleased music, as well as a cover of Miley Cyrus' famous "Wrecking Ball."

Despite the group's success, they haven't forgotten their origins as a local Maine band. The group will play at The Boomhouse Restaurant in Old Town on Feb. 28, a small venue for some, but home for the Overtones.

"We've been playing for 20 years, but the majority of that 20 years, over the whole grand scheme of things, we're more used to small clubs than giant venues," Gutter explained. "That's kind of where where we got our start, kind of where our roots are."

"As far as getting a connection from the audience, it happens in a way in a small venue that it doesn't in a big venue," he said.

Part of the excitement, Gutter said, is the way crowds change over time.

“Fans kind of cycle in as the times change and evolve,” he said. “Even though we have fans that have been around since the beginning who are older, the people who are getting out and staying out all night, are the college kids.”

It’s a sentiment shared by those at The Boomhouse, who hope hosting the group will draw a large and diverse crowd to their stage and grow their local band scene.

“We’re just in the beginning stages of getting the bands in here,” Jessica Paschal, front-of-house manager at The Boomhouse, said.

“It’s great with the University of Maine being so close for students to have that opportunity to come and be able to experience the bands,” she said.

Paschal, who is 35, said the group’s impact on the restaurant is its ability to draw a wide and diverse group of people to her local business.

“It’s not just students from the University of Maine that are coming. The Rustic Overtones have been around for so long that it’s people that are my age and older,” she said. “It’s a wide range of ages coming out to enjoy it.”

There’s no doubt the band will enjoy it, as well. A group founded in small venue rock music, the Overtones are excited to bring their music to an up-and-coming local scene.

“When we wrote all this material for the Mood Box, it was the exact kind of environment we were in, was playing in small clubs like that,” Gutter said.

“To do these songs, songs that span our whole career, out live in those kind of venues, in the same cities, it’s really cool.”

The Rustic Overtones will play at The Boomhouse Restaurant in Old Town at 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28. More information can be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/TheBoomhouse>.