

Local Listens

Listen local is the new shop local.

Written by: Kendall Minaldi

While it's always fun to spend a night out on the town attending chart-topping artists' concerts, don't discount local artists who have so much talent to offer.

Hall Johnson is a five-piece indie garage pop/rock group from Colleyville, Texas, and despite being relative newcomers to the Dallas music scene, they have already seen success and are only gaining more. Trevor Stovall, the band's guitar and piano player and a freshman at OSU, met with me to talk all things Hall Johnson. The band's origin goes back to July of 2016, when four of the current members met up to jam. The name Hall Johnson comes simply from the name of a major street in their hometown. Their sound stems from the likes of The Strokes, The Cure, and The Smiths, giving them a vibe that perfectly blends newer garage rock with influences from the 80s. From modest beginnings to tours, the highlight according to Stovall was their east coast tour. "[Touring was] definitely the best experience of my life. It was ten shows and I booked it all independently, so it was just the coolest experience I've ever had." Hopefully you caught them at Alpha Tau Omega's Fright Fest, but if not check them out on their Texas tour with Dent May in December!

Lend a listen:

https://open.spotify.com/artist/0h3htFOEdMcLUfAV6wPlwW?si=vTbPcNtMTJGzeQB_SR7ZQw

Follow:

<https://www.instagram.com/halljohnsontx/>

For someone with a music taste more inclined to pop singer/songwriters such as Shawn Mendes, Ed Sheeran, or Charlie Puth, check out Cole Norton. While originally from Canada, Norton currently attends Oklahoma State where he often plays in the student union or performs at the Seretean Center. His singing career began at age 14 and grew from there, leading him to write his first song in 2017, called "Wrote a Song About You", posting covers online, and even exposure by a Dallas radio station. Norton describes his sound as "emotional and true to the stories I tell, I really try to make the audience feel the words." While he does not have any Stillwater shows planned at the moment, you can find his music on Spotify and Apple Music.

Lend a listen:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/4DTWz8iNRSxYYpHqPNCixy?si=RjidF2VTTkOIMUrVug5aYQ>

Follow:

<https://www.instagram.com/coleanorton/>

On the other end of the spectrum, there's 51 Junction, a red dirt band based out of Stillwater. Playing together for about a year and a half, the group has honed their sound from influences such as The Troubadours, Led Zeppelin, and Casey Donahew. 51 Junction also released an EP

titled “*One More Round*” in October so be sure to give it a listen. You can find a 51 Junction show at a Stillwater venue almost every weekend, so it shouldn’t be hard to catch them!

Lend a listen:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/0pOvG6EDOBwD2L9wicSTOY?si=RiN6xrv7TGj7WgJs5a0CTA>

Follow:

<https://www.facebook.com/51Junction/>