



Heart of Brevard Artist Spotlight Series

**Finding Your Sound With Gypsy & Me:
Local Band and Photographers in the Heart of Brevard**

By John Harris

“Music is a universal language, throughout all of mankind there’s been music,” said Kyzandra Zarate. Zarate and Mike Moore make up the local band Gypsy & Me. She shared, “For as long as I’ve known him, Mike has had ‘know hope’ tattooed on his fingers... that’s the message we want our music to spread.”

They incorporate many different sounds in their music, keeping them from being typecast into one set genre. From Moore’s punk band history, he has created a new sound with Zarate influenced by Folk and Americana. Moore reflected, “I used to write more complex music. Nowadays, it’s more simplistic. It’s a good balance. The simplicity of the music gives the opportunity for the lyrics to shine.” Some of their inspiration comes from the duo, Johnny Cash and June Carter. They are currently working on a tribute album for the legendary performers.

Part of their unique approach to music comes from their raw sound, which they have embraced. Moore explained, “There’s always a mistake in every song and I leave it in on purpose, because it humbles me. During a live show if a string breaks or I mess up on a note, I’m at peace with it already.... Most likely I’m the only person that’s going to hear it, but it keeps it as real as possible.”

The two met with the help of social media and their photography. Zarate saw Moore’s work online which inspired her to message him, and the rest is history. They now own a photography business together called Lifestyle & Living. Zarate also shows her artistic side by creating band merchandise that includes earrings made with Moore’s broken guitar strings. Zarate elaborated, “He’s played them at shows, so you’re taking a piece of our music with you.” Their merchandise is available at their performances or can be found at Local Color and Hunters & Gatherers in the Heart of Brevard.

Together, they have travelled the world and have performed their music across the country. In February 2019, they took to the road on their 14 Tanks Tour playing 20 shows in 29 days from North Carolina to Joshua Tree, California. Moore elaborated, “We ask ourselves what we want to see, and then take the music with us when we see it.” From her experience as a graphic designer, and her work with news and advertising agencies, Zarate is in charge of most of their promotion. This flexibility has allowed them to explore and perform along the way.



While reflecting on their past, they also look forward to the future with their next big projects. Zarate stated, "We really like connecting with people, and not being able to play live shows during these months has been a challenge for us." They used that time to begin working on their next album titled "PANDEMİC", which will be released on October 23rd. The album allowed them the opportunity to experiment with different sounds and techniques such as using a medley as their closing song. "PANDEMİC" discusses many of the struggles that they, and the world, have been dealing with, while leaving listeners with a sense of hope. Their album release show will be taking place at MANTiques in the Heart of Brevard.

Speaking of brighter days, Zarate discussed another project in the works. She explained, "When we played at our first local live show, after the order was lifted, a movie producer happened to be in the crowd." The producer connected to their sound and imagined it working well with the theme of his upcoming film. The movie will have scenes filmed in Brevard and the majority of the soundtrack will be written by Mike Moore, with a feature song by Gypsy & Me, two great reasons to look out for it.

To learn more about Gypsy & Me and where you can purchase their music check out their website through this link: GypsyAndMeBand.com. To learn more about their photography business you can access their work through this link: LifestyleLivingPhoto.com.

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