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MUMFORD’S
STAYING TRUE
As a band that has toured all over the nation and performed in 32 states, the Mumford’s have stayed true to their roots through it all. “We hang an Iowa flag at all of our shows,” said band leader Nate Logsdon.

Logsdon, a talented individual who plays trumpet, piano, and guitar as well as performing vocals, originally started as a solo act playing acoustic guitar. The band formed in 2008 and has transformed over the past three years. Logsdon described their style of music as “high energy rock with a horn section,” but their genre can also be identified as psych folk.

However, Mumford’s music keeps its folksy vibe through narrative style lyrics. The songs tell stories with the added bonus of a heavy and dancey twist. The band also incorporates choreographed dances into their performances to help engage the audience.

The band has another quirk to call their own: they’re nonexclusive. The band has a policy of remaining open to meeting and playing with new people. Things come up, and members may have to move or leave the band for personal reasons, so the band has grown and adapted to accommodate. “The old bass player moved away, so that was when I came into the band, in 2009,” said bass player Chris Lyng. The band has had quite the member turnover since it was founded in 2008.

Mumford’s recently released their album “Triple Trinities” in CD or vinyl, through Maximum Ames Records. They were also the first release on that record label. “We tour a lot so we can go out and promote the record,” said Lyng.

When asked about the band’s creative process for writing songs, it came to light that the entire band has a hand in the creation as well as the singing, through collaboration and contribution of ideas. According to Lyng, Logsdon, the primary singer/songwriter, comes to the band with an idea and all members can add any thoughts or suggestions.

One of the most obvious distinguishing characteristics of the band is its name, of course. It is possessively punctuated for a reason. The name was chosen in memory of Don Mumford, a jazz musician from Lawrence, Kansas. Logsdon met Mumford in Ames, and they played together before Logsdon was into the music scene himself.

While on tour, during a gig in Kansas, the locals informed the band that Mr. Mumford played Jazz there on Sunday nights. “It blew our minds. We even recognized the red rooms from pictures we’d seen of Mumford on the internet, and we were playing there on a Sunday night,” reports Lyng. It was an experience that no doubt excited and further united the band for a great show. ELAINE GODFREY

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PHOTO: CLAIRE POWELL