

BAND BIO: 450 words

TIMOTHY BAILEY and THE HUMANS

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“More than once I found myself wandering around the streets of Washington, D.C., with my shirt buttoned wrong, unsure of who I was, or where I was,” says **Timothy Bailey**. “Each time, I found a piece of paper in my pocket with a phone number on it that I did not recognize and called it. The number was for my therapist, and she would tell me how to get home.”

The search for a path out of trauma led to the founding of **Timothy Bailey and the Humans**. Fronted by singer/composer/arranger **Bailey**, the group leads listeners along a compelling road from darkness to light as it cross-pollinates the sophisticated poeticism of Leonard Cohen with the muscular intensity of 1980s post-punk.

With lush, artfully crafted, emotionally affecting songs in the vein of Jarvis Cocker and Aimee Mann, the project tells a powerful personal story of a journey through mental illness to find meaning and hope. It will connect with listeners of any age who appreciate heartfelt, beautifully made songs that have something to say.

Bailey, a veteran pop musician trained in jazz composition, came to the project after years of personal turmoil. A traumatic, abusive childhood eventually led in the 2000s to more than a decade of struggle with severe mental illness, including repeated hospitalizations.

Music became both a path out and a lifeline. As his music took shape, Bailey’s life gained focus as well.

With the Humans, Bailey found collaborators who could make his musical visions real and push his music forward. Guitarist **Ben Nicastro** (Hoax Hunters, Cagey Watts) adds his own wide-ranging virtuosity. Bassist **Doyle Hull** (the Shangri-Lords, Red Hot Lava Men) and drummer **Go Weatherford** (Cracker, Chrome Daddy Disco, Dirtball) ensure that the music remains grounded on a foundation of classic soul and 1980s alternative. Violinist **Melissa Sunderland Jones** brings a blend of classical finesse and post-punk noise.

Producer **Chad Clark** joined the mix in 2021. Clark, the leader, vocalist, and primary songwriter for D.C.-based band Beauty Pill, is a legendary producer whose work includes alt-rock classics such as Dismemberment Plan's "Emergency & I."

On the swaggering "Unseen Ocean" and the driving "Killer From the Mountain," bass and drums become a relentless juggernaut around which intertwine Nicastro's wiry guitar and Sunderland Jones's violin. On "Weird Animal," the music pulses like a murmuring heartbeat as Bailey's velvety baritone caresses the lyrics.

"My life started out horrific, and that affected me in ways I never even recognized for many years," Bailey says. "But music gave me a light to follow and a language to share what I have been through. It has helped me find a community of others who connect with these songs and find hope in them. That's what I hope."