

Unificationist Musicians Seek to Sail Their Way to Success

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Leader singer of *Sail the Boat* Glenn Haider performs with drummer Hyun Moraes.

Sail the Boat, an Indie rock band composed of young Unificationists, has been building a loyal following within the Lovin' Life Ministries (LLM) community in New York and New Jersey. The band members for *Sail the Boat* have been performing together since 2009 as the core band for "Junction," a weekly young-adult-ministry service developed to allow young adults to interact and learn about the vision of LLM.

In 2011, five members from the *Junction Band* – drummer Hyun Moraes, vocalist Glenn Haider, guitarist Oji Bahian, bass-player Rudy Jr. Bahian and guitarist and vocalist Matty Corcoran – created their own band and named it "Sail the Boat." The band names *Young the Giant*, *Delta Spirit*, *Local Native* and *Thrice* as influences. Their new name may help facilitate on-the-road performances.

Junction was launched by National Youth Pastor of LLM Jaga Gavin in December of 2009, several months after the launch of LLM in April 2009. Pastor Gavin said, "We wanted to create a young-adult ministry focused on supporting LLM throughout the week. We do this with awesome music, empowering messages, and providing a space where we can recharge and catch up as Unificationists and friends."

"Being part of the *Junction Band* is awesome, but being able to write and play with *Sail the Boat* is almost a liberating experience, simply because it's made by us, packaged by us and delivered by us" said lead-singer Haider.

The members of *Sail the Boat* practice four- to five hours a week and have been composing music for more than six months. Haider said, "We all have our homework that we bring to the table. All it takes is for one of our ideas to spark someone else's, and then the canvas doesn't seem so white anymore. When I write a song, I follow a simple formula. I whip out the old guitar and hope something can flow. I just play some basic and clear-cut chords and sing along, hoping a melody can form. Then I throw some lyrics in and call it a day."

According to Haider, one of the first songs the band wrote, called "Place," is a favorite of their audiences. "We were still in the process of finding our sound – and still are – so it was more of an experiment to create something simple and catchy," said Haider. "Hence, the chorus has no lyrics, is easy to sing along to and is memorable. We wrote the song within an hour, and we are really proud of it because it seems to

be a favorite of our audiences. It's also a really fun song to play.”

Listen to songs by *Sail the Boat* here: www.reverbnation.com/sailtheboat_



From left to right: Glenn Haider, Hyun Moraes, Rudy Jr. Bahian and Matty Corcoran.

Giving Back to Lovin' Life

According to Pastor Gavin, the members of *Sail the Boat* regularly contribute and give back to their faith community. “They help *Sonic Cult* members Joe Young and Ben Lorentzen move equipment before and after LLM service in the Manhattan Center, starting as early as 6:00 a.m., sometimes, both as a way to give back to the ministry and to gain the experience of how things are set up. They perform regularly for church-related events – for example, they were one of the bands to play at the Coffeehouse event in Boston, and they’ll also perform for a Women’s Federation for World Peace event in August. Whenever *Sonic Cult* is out of town during Sunday service, *Sail the Boat* will step in as the *Junction Band* to perform.

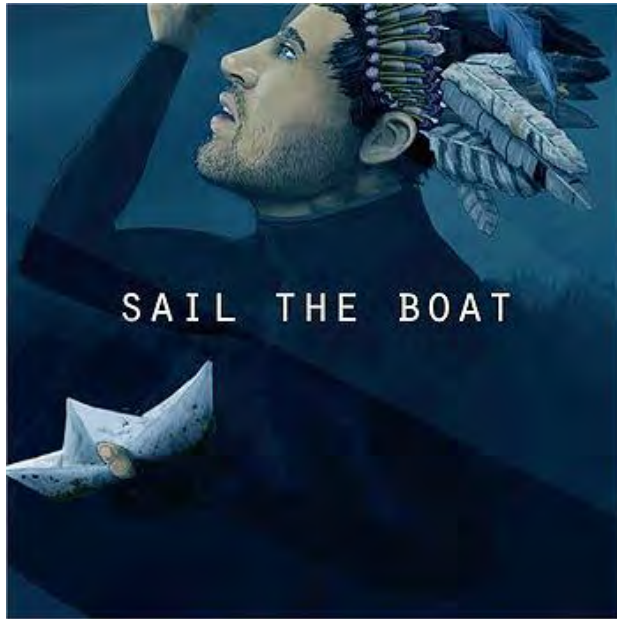
“We’re using *Junction* as a platform to raise new musicians. We want to provide other people the opportunity to know what it’s like not only to perform, but also to set up before a performance and practice. Hyun and Glenn do a lot of the coaching when we have guest performers. I’ve seen the members of *Sail the Boat* mature as musicians and as people. They are in a position not only to mentor but also to step back and lift others up. They actively interact with members of the Leadership Program at the Lovin’ Life Learning Center, and it’s been a cool experience to see them empower other Unificationists.”

The members of *Sail the Boat* perform weekly as part of the *Junction Band* with other local young adults, many of whom are guest performers. Some of these include trainees from the Generation Peace Academy (GPA) including singers Lara de Oliveira, Melissa Joyce and Karina Sutker. Others include Wendy Fiala (vocalist) and Rexton Moon (pianist) from the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) office, LLM Youth Pastor Toby Gullery (vocalist and pianist) and GPA-graduate Daniel Castillo (vocalist). All members of the *Junction Band* are volunteers and take the initiative to develop their own music sets and practice.

Moraes, the drummer for both *Sail the Boat* and the *Junction Band*, says that performing “in the environment of our community has definitely been a strengthening experience. Music inspires community in a positive way, and we constantly feel inspired by the people around us.”

Moraes will be leading a music practicum for the LLM Leadership College this summer and says that he wants to be able to share what he has learned so far as a student at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. “I want to reach out to both people in and out of our church,” he said. “Together with the other

band members, I want to help give people an opportunity to learn music, practice and work with other musicians.



A painting by Suny Wojcik, a second-generation Unificationist friend of the members of Sail the Boat.

“The band is a source of inspiration for me. I have a strong idea of what I believe, and knowing who I am helps me find a deeper meaning for what it is I do. I see my music career motivated not by a desire for money or superficial things, but by a desire to inspire people to do the things they dream of doing. As a band, we’re always striving for excellence. We want to be the best we can be at what we do without being distracted by negativity.”

Brothers Oji and Rudy Bahian had only been playing guitar for six months before they joined the *Junction Band* in 2009. However, their roles as band members became so important to them that their entire family moved from Maryland to New Jersey to give them the opportunity to play on a weekly basis. According to Oji Bahian, “The best part of being in a band is being together and having fun. I hope to see us go as far as we can. We don’t want to set limits for ourselves in terms of what we can do.”

Ester Allen, a House Manager for LLM, said, “I have their music on my iPod, and I like listening to them on the subway or playing their music for other people. It makes me proud to know all these guys personally. I like Glenn’s voice, and I think that some of his songs, such as ‘The Man I Should Be,’ have pretty deep meaning that I find inspiring. All the members of *Sail the Boat* are really nice and chill. They’re very talented, but they’re not showy about it. I think it’s easy for musicians to blow up who they are, but for *Sail the Boat*, it’s not about them or about getting the spotlight. It’s about creating a good atmosphere with good music.”

Pastor Gavin said, “The sky’s the limit for them. I hope that wherever they go, they can truly represent what it means to be a Unificationist. Rev. In Jin Moon says that we as musicians don’t have to be consumed by the world of entertainment and encourages us to lead by example and set a new standard of internal and external excellence. I really hope that these young men, who owned their passion because they felt empowered, can do so.”