



January's newsletter is again brought to you by...US. If you have a business/organization, and want to get in front of our readers and app users - this is just one of *several* spots where you can be placed if you sponsor Scenester! Learn more [here](#).

**This is the first official Scenester-
Omaha newsletter of 2026!**

Read past interviews:

[Beast Eagle](#)

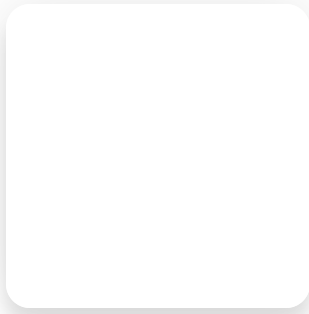
[The Tale Untold](#)

[Evandale](#)

Happy New Year everyone! With a new year comes new music, and here at Scenester - we're all about it. Our New Year's resolution is simple really - to grow our reader/app user base, as our success can only help Omaha's music scene succeed even more. You can help by sending your like-minded friends our way!

We're just one month out from this year's Omaha Entertainment & Arts Awards ceremony! The event will be held February 15th, 2026 at The Admiral in the Downtown/South Omaha area. View the [nominees](#) to see which local artists are being considered at this year's ceremony. We'll be there in person to attend, and cover which music artists receive awards on the night. Be sure to get your [tickets](#) to attend the special evening in person!

Before we dive into things further, be sure to check out our Omaha playlists on Spotify. We have [seven playlists](#) (each grouping similar sub-genres together) comprised *only* of original Omaha bands and artists. We also have the Editor's Choice Playlist (below) that serves as a smooth, easy listen - and as a snapshot of the music scene as a whole. We're considering running ads for this playlist in the near future, which could really help boost Omaha's music scene's profile both here at home AND throughout the region! Stay tuned, and enjoy the playlist.



Omaha Rocks 2026

Scenester

Save on Spotify

00:00

- 1 Beast
Arson City 03:45
- 2 Echo
E The Impulsive 03:09
- 3 Hello World
E Of the Skies, Kate Lewis 05:20

New Music Mondays are back! Every Monday for the coming month or so span, there will be a FREE concert at The Waiting Room Lounge featuring newer artists from around the scene. These Monday shows are a *must* for the scenester!

Did you know that it costs us nearly \$90 per month to run the Scenester App and website? Although the App is completely FREE to use, we humbly accept donations via our [Ko-Fi page](#)! Whether it's a one time gift or an ongoing one, we appreciate the help in covering the overhead cost of keeping things running and the content coming.

Also - you can buy some sweet Scenester Swag from [our online store](#)! Be a brand ambassador by supporting us, and define what it means to be a '**scenester**'. In a way, you're supporting your favorite local artists by supporting us - as our coverage of Omaha's music scene aims to foster a long lasting, deeper, richer, more modern experience for the whole community! :)

We just recently added hoodies! We offer both zip up and pullover options. Be sure to get yours while the cold weather is still at it!



We hope you've been enjoying the **Scenester App**. Don't forget to sign in (or create a login), and vote for January's "Hottest Local of the Month" in the Local Heat Meter! * *One vote per person per week.*

Candidates:

Dream Aura

Cowgirl Eastern

A-G \$trange

AJthe Dread

The Midland Band

Of The Skies

Absence + Alchemy

Light Speed Highway

Congratulations to the artists above for bringing the heat and making it onto our radar! Best of luck to all candidates. Now it's up to the people to decide!

As for December's Local Heat Meter vote - congratulations to **Virgin Mary Pistol Grip** for being voted "Hottest Local of the Month" by the users of the app! We reached out to the Omaha Rock band for a little Q&A - exclusive to this newsletter. Let's get to know the band on a deeper level, shall we?



Scenester: You guys recently re-released your single 'Dragonfly' featuring a rather special guest musician...could you tell us some insights as to how it came about to work with Ryan Delahoussaye (violinist from Blue October)?

VMPG: Our producer (Bob Marlette) really likes Dragonfly and we discussed adding a special guest to that track. We thought adding strings to this song could elevate it. Bob asked if we knew anyone that could add those parts, and we immediately had Ryan in mind (Jales has known Ryan and the guys in Blue October for 15+ years.) So, when Blue October was stopping through Omaha on one of their tours, we met up, chatted about what we were looking for and he agreed.

Scenester: That's so awesome that it worked out! It's wild that Jales has known the Blue October guys for so long now. Could you explain to us what ideas or themes are central to VMPG, and how they might've evolved for you guys over the years?

VMPG: 'Love Always Wins' is a motto for our band. We also have a mental health campaign called Blue Fingernails. Our fans have helped evolve that into what it is! They show up with their nails painted blue, custom blue heart shirts, and even getting the VMPG blue heart tattoo. We usually try to have our merch flow with the feel of our current album (Where Time Went).

Scenester: That's so beautiful. Recently we saw some pics of fans' blue heart tattoos...it really is such a special thing you guys have established. Speaking of the fans, the 20th Omaha Entertainment Awards ceremony is coming up next month, and VMPG was nominated for Outstanding Rock - amongst eight other tremendous local rock acts. Could you guys tell us a little bit about what these nominations mean to you?

VMPG: Getting recognized for your art is an amazing thing. With the OEAA's, it's even more amazing, because it's the fans who vote for nominations. We love that Omaha has such a vibrant scene.

Scenester: Exactly - it's the fans! Love it. Well good luck you guys, we'll see you at the ceremony. If you could open up for any big time band, is there a band or two that you guys would all agree on being a dream come true?

VMPG: Pearl Jam!

Scenester: Boom, enough said! We'd pay to see that for sure. As for show days, which local restaurant is VMPG eating at before performing a show here in Omaha?

VMPG: You can find us at Star Deli in Benson!!

Scenester: Wonderful place. If any of our readers haven't eaten there yet - you really need to! Fun loaded question: In your guys' opinion, what is the role of music in society?

VMPG: To make people feel something!

Scenester: Of course! Piggy-backing off of that with another deep question...with so much AI generated music flooding the zone now at this point in time, where do you guys think human made music goes from here?

VMPG: We think people will continue to go to live shows, buy music (vinyl), and listen to human made music. There's something about being in a space together, the connection that is made between the band and fans/audiences and the community it creates that AI cannot replicate.

Scenester: Amen to that! That's exactly why we do what we do here at Scenester . Speaking of time, it's wild that 2026 is here already. Does the band have any fun New Year's Resolutions? Or perhaps the members, individually?

VMPG: 2026 already! Crazy!! We don't necessarily make resolutions, we strive to continually get better every day!

Scenester: Nice and simple, like a sports team. Do you guys have any projects in the works, like any more upcoming singles, collabs - or perhaps even an album?

VMPG: We are heading to the studio this year to record a new album!

Scenester: Alright! That's what we like to hear. You guys have a big show coming up with Good Life Records Winterfest at both The Waiting Room AND Reverb Lounge. What are you all looking forward to the most with this concert?

VMPG: Our favorite thing to do is play live shows! Especially when it's with our fellow GLR mates at two great venues!!!! It's a great way to see so many bands (& friends) in one night. 12 bands for \$12 - that's a steal!

Scenester: That's such a great deal! Hard to beat for such excellent quality. Well we'll be there, and we look forward to seeing you guys perform - as well as all the other amazing bands.

Thanks for taking the time with us guys! Great work on 'Dragonfly', and we look forward to the concert the 30th - and we'll keep our eyes open for the new album once it's coming out. Rock on guys!

VMPG: Thank you!

What's happening around the scene?

Local Concerts to catch in the month ahead (at least one local Omaha based artist in the lineup):

01/16 - Hip Hop Chronicles Vol. 1 at Beach House Bar & Grill

01/17 - The Tale Untold: Metal Pajama Party w/ Grave Solace, Ex Nihilo & Jiblets @ The Waiting Room

01/22 - The Green Series Pt. 1 w/T-Dro, Jay Influential, CityyBoi Don, & more at The Waiting Room Lounge

01/23 - Altura w/Fallen Reign & Million Dollar Veins at The Waiting Room Lounge

01/25 - Sunday School Live w/Molten, Brave The Fall & Pull The Plug at The B-Side Bar

01/29 - The Green Series Pt. 2 w/Snake Lucci, Dread & \$trange, Zaratti, & more at The Waiting Room Lounge

01/30 - Good Life Records: Winterfest (12 GLR bands) @ BOTH Reverb Lounge AND The Waiting Room

01/31 - Good Life Records: SHIM w/Gallivant, Kevin McClure & Anyone Else at Slowdown

02/06 - Hair Person w/Cavedivers at Reverb Lounge

02/19 - The Browning w/Within Destruction, Face Yourself, Dead Eyes & Beyond Lobotomy at The Waiting Room Lounge

02/20 - Savage Master w/Ungoliant, Phantom Crypt & Phuzz at Reverb Lounge

02/21 - Violenteer w/Her Flyaway Manner, Black Cat Rodeo & Cavedivers

02/22 - Rivers Of Nihil w/Ben's Raincoat & Neo Sol at Reverb Lounge

Lots of recent releases in the past month:

12/12: 'Sleepless Eyes' - Anyone Else

12/16: 'Thumbscrew Confessions' - Absence+Alchemy

12/21: 'Christmas: A Story' - AJtheDread

12/24: 'Christmas: Santa VS The Grinch' - AJtheDread & A-G \$trange

12/25: 'Martyrs and Marauders & Murderers and Mammals' - new EP by Cowgirl Eastern

12/29: 'Smoking Like I'm Willy' - A-G \$trange

01/04: 'Woah' - Snake Lucci

01/05: 'Karolyn' - The Mudpuddles

01/10: 'Awaken' - The Light That Blinds

01/12: '111' - new EP by Bucky P

Upcoming releases:

01/16: 'Grey' - Bloodrites

01/16: 'Closer' - Sister Scarlet

01/16: 'BB&B' - Ex Nihilo

01/17: 'The Rodeo Dude' - new EP by The Midland Band

01/23: 'Hello World' - Of The Skies ft. Kate Lewis (Beast Eagle, Wake Sessions)

02/01: 'Proud To Be Black' - Jay Lively

02/11: 'Hollowed' - LGHTBRNGR

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



That's the latest buzz around the Omaha music scene from December on into February. Next month's newsletter will cover the most voted artist for "Hottest of the Month" from the month of January - be sure to vote every week while you still can this month!

Be sure to use the app, go to shows, and we'll see you around the scene. Until next month...cheers!

Scenester Music

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