

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Maleena Dominick

Email: musicbymaleena@gmail.com

Call/Text: +1 (412) 503-3478

**Pittsburgh Musician Maleena Dominick to Release Debut Book,
*Steel City Setlist: Navigating the Pittsburgh Music Scene on April 18***

PITTSBURGH, PA (March 16, 2026) — Musician and writer Maleena Dominick announces the release of her debut book, *Steel City Setlist*, an autoethnographic exploration of the Pittsburgh music scene and its vibrant culture. Blending personal narrative with cultural reflection, interviews and candid observation, the book examines how the evolving community operates and sustains itself.

In *Steel City Setlist*, Dominick examines Pittsburgh’s music scene from multiple angles—tracing local festivals, her family’s roots within the community, the young artists emerging today, and the systems that support them. Along the way, she reflects on how the research process itself reshaped her understanding of the culture she has been part of.

This book is an autoethnography about the Pittsburgh music scene. Autoethnography is a style of writing and research on a subculture that combines the writer’s personal experiences with qualitative analysis to examine cultural and social aspects of the community from within. Over 30 musicians across a dozen subscenes and genres offered their perspectives to this project, giving first-hand accounts of the different experiences in this large community.

“As this community faces disappearing venues, rising costs, and changes in the scene’s structure, documenting this city’s music culture has become increasingly important,” says Dominick. “*Steel City Setlist* arrives at a moment when independent artists, organizers, and supporters are working hard to preserve the creative spaces that foster authenticity, collaboration, and connection across the region.”

In addition to the book, *Steel City Setlist* includes a companion documentary film, premiering at a special screening event at the Mr. Roboto Project on Sunday March 22nd at 12PM. The premiere event will include special guest performances from Lorelai Paige and Noah Goisse.

An official book release event will follow at The Guitar Shop PGH on Saturday April 18th at 3 PM. The free event will include selected readings, a discussion of the research process, a documentary viewing, and a book signing. Copies of *Steel City Setlist* will be available for purchase at the event and through select local retailers and online platforms following the release.

Research from *Steel City Setlist* will also be presented at the Northeast Regional Honors Council's 2026 Conference in Connecticut on March 28th, where Dominick will participate in a roundtable discussion sharing the project's autoethnographic research on Pittsburgh's music scene. The presentation brings the stories and structures of Pittsburgh's independent music community to a national audience.

Together, the book and documentary capture the voices, relationships, and creative spaces that continue to shape Pittsburgh's independent music community.

About the Author

Maleena Dominick is a Pittsburgh-based musician and writer who has spent more than a decade performing in the city's music scene. She is the bassist of Chip & The Charge Ups and has been an active participant in Pittsburgh's independent music community throughout her career.

Dominick is a Dean's List Honors student at the Community College of Allegheny County, where she was inspired to write *Steel City Setlist*. Her music and work have been featured on television programs such as *Pittsburgh Today Live*, radio stations including 102.5 WDVE, Q92.9 and 97.7 The Rock Station, and in print publications such as *Beaver County Times* and the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/musicbymaleena

YouTube: www.youtube.com/musicbymaleena