

**Steel
City
Setlist**



Steel City Setlist

Navigating the Pittsburgh Music Scene

Maleena Dominick

Steel City Setlist: Navigating the Pittsburgh Music Scene

By Maleena Dominick

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First Edition

Cover design by Sharon Dominick

ISBN: 978-1-257-56669-3

Imprint: Lulu.com

Printed in the United States of America

*For the artists who wrote the soundtrack of this
city, the venues that keep their doors open, and the
community that makes Pittsburgh loud.*

This book is for you.

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INTRODUCTION

The Pittsburgh music scene is just as complex and detailed as the streets that weave throughout the city. Its rich history, diversity, and variety make it impossible to capture all that this community has to offer. “The kids in the Hill District have a completely different scene than the kids in the South Side, or in Lawrenceville, or in Garfield, or in Brookline,” says Jeff Betten of Misra Records and Hellbender Vinyl. “Not to mention that the metal heads probably don't know much about what the hip-hop heads are doing, and vice versa. It's complicated and messy, but absolutely everyone around the world agrees that Pittsburgh punches above its weight class when it comes to music.”

This book is an autoethnography of the Pittsburgh music scene. Autoethnography is a style of

writing and research on a subculture that combines the writer's personal experiences with qualitative conclusions about cultural, social, and political themes. Over 30 musicians across a dozen subscenes and genres contributed their perspectives to this project, offering first-hand accounts of the different experiences in this large community. While significant amounts of research went into this work, it is in no way a complete reflection of every corner of Pittsburgh's music scene. This city's musical landscape is so vast that a lifetime would barely suffice to explore every venue, genre, and musician in depth.

the Triumphal Return of
11/8 **Kame House** Secret Tunnel

He Gets on Base
Open Cart Surgery
Coldstone Steve Austin
Humming Idle
Where is My Mind
Cold Harbor
Muholland Drive
Bada Bing

Secret Tunnel setlist

CHAPTER ONE

I run down the narrow stairs, my heart beating with anticipation. I had just finished curling my freshly dyed purple hair and putting on my makeup. That was the final step in transforming myself from everyday Maleena to stage Maleena—the most real version of myself. The lights dim as the previous band gather their gear and leave the stage. I sling my prized possession—my sparkly Kiesel 5-string bass—over my shoulder and brace myself for the experience I’m about to have. The stage I am about to perform on is one of the best in Pittsburgh. I have seen so many of my favorite touring bands and artists play at Mr. Smalls, but tonight is all about local musicians.

I peek around the corner to see that the venue is full of people. There are a few familiar faces, but mostly strangers in the crowd. I take a deep breath. I'm not nervous, but adrenaline is pumping through my veins. The house music ends, and our intro music begins to play. Excitement fills the entire venue. Nolan walks out onto the stage first and is greeted with a cheer. I make sure I have everything I need. My heart is beating out of my chest. It's go time.

I run out onto the stage, and the crowd explodes. I look out into the audience, taking in the feeling of having hundreds of eyes looking at me to put on a show. It feels like I am in slow motion, like a scene from a movie. Then Chip—my dad, our frontman—joins us, and the room roars once again. The lights, sound, and energy wrap around me from every corner of the venue. As soon as our intro music ended, we launched into

“Paying Back the Devil,” and I got choked up as I saw the crowd go wild. I almost let a tear fall. Not out of fear, but out of joy. Out of a surreal, victorious feeling that I was finally living out the real experience of what I had always dreamed of. These people showed up for me, just a local musician.



Beasts of the Burgh III at Mr. Small's Theater

Sharon Dominick Photography

This moment is what being a local musician is all about. It's not about fame, or stepping on others to try to get to the top—it's about connection. It's about putting in a lot of work, playing to half-empty rooms, promoting, and networking just for the chance to have a night like this. Being a part of the local music scene means building something real with the people who care the most. It means sharing the stage with friends, supporting each other's projects, watching bands go from opener to headliner, and most importantly, showing up. It's more than just musicians. It is a network of artists all chasing the same dream together.

Mr. Smalls Theatre: Production Schedule Saturday, March 22, 2025	
Headline Load In:	3:00 PM
Support Load In:	3:00 PM
Production Load In:	4:00 PM
Sound Check:	Following Load In.
Doors:	7:00 PM
Travel and Parking	
Headline Travel:	Headline Parking:
Support Travel:	Support Parking:
Set Times	
XDB	10:15 PM - 10:45 PM
Never Say Die	9:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Chip and The Charge Ups	8:45 PM - 9:15 PM
Griffen Handshake	8:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Curfew: 11:30 PM	Bus Call:
Notes	
<p>Promoter/Venue Staff:</p> <p>Please direct any questions to the appropriate party or parties below:</p> <p>Box Office Rep:</p> <p>Promoter Rep:</p> <p>FOH Engineer:</p> <p>Monitor Engineer:</p> <p>Lighting Designer:</p> <p>House GM:</p> <p>Security:</p> <p>Police:</p> <p>Ages:</p>	
Headline Contacts	
Please direct any questions to the appropriate party or parties below:	
Tour Manager:	Chip & The Charge Ups
Production Manager :	XDB
FOH Engineer	
Lighting Designer :	Never Say Die

Beasts of the Burgh III production schedule

The Pittsburgh music scene is its own society, with its own set of rules, rulers, hardships, and shortcuts. If you're just joining this community for the first time, the connections you make are invaluable to you. Having someone's back often means they will have yours when you need it. However, that may not always be the case. There tends to be a bit of exclusivity from a handful of bands, artists, and promoters that often act like they are too good to support you when you're at the bottom of the ladder. That might pose a rather large roadblock, but beware: there are many more. Possibly the biggest problem you will face is the fact that venues are dropping like flies. Getting a gig is already difficult as it is for bands who have been around for years, simply due to the lack of places to play. Luckily, there is a remedy for getting the recognition you deserve. Pittsburgh is full of opportunities for local musicians to

promote themselves. From huge music festivals to open mics to opportunities for local music on radio airplay, there is always a way to make sure your music is heard.

IRE SET
10-25-25
WHEN WE WERE DEAD

1. BLOOD LUST
2. SHALLOW GRAVE
3. REFLECTIONS
4. RED INK
5. LOST YOUR FAITH
6. MARIONETTE
7. BROKEN HEARTS DONT BEAT
8. LAID TO REST
9. DRUM SOLO
10. SMILE AND WATCH IT BURN
11. PARIS GREEN

Ire setlist