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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Proving their metal

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Grads of Grrrls 2 the Front, a program to put more
3 women behind the sound board, will engineer a triple bill of all-
4 woman rock bands

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 It's rare to see an all-woman metal show, and even more
7 unusual to have an all-woman sound crew, even in 2026.

8 But that's who will put on the show when for acts —
9 Sepssis, Awaiting Abigail, Under the Horizon, and Pulsfier —
10 play at the Stone Church in Brattleboro on Friday, March 6, at 7
11 p.m.

12 The concert celebrates students graduating from the
13 Grrrls 2 the Front sound tech intensive, a program presented by
14 Higher Calling Arts, the arts programing arm of the Stone Church
15 dedicated to “empowering youth and marginalized voices while
16 building sustainable pathways for artistic development and
17 community connection,” according to the [Stone Church website](#).

18 The graduates will show off what they have learned as
19 they run the show themselves.

20 Grrrls to the Front (named after the Riot Grrrl
21 underground, feminist punk movement of the 1990s) is
22 committed to creating access and opportunity for women, trans,
23 and nonbinary individuals in the live music world. The program
24 creates this access and build community through women-led
25 concerts, workshops, mentorships, and educational programs.

26 Grrrls to the Front was started in the years before
27 COVID-19 as a series of one-off, women-led shows held at the
28 Stone Church to raise funds for the Women’s Freedom Center, an
29 organization in Brattleboro that provides advocacy and support
30 for domestic violence survivors and families.

31 Emerging from the pandemic with new energy and
32 motivation, the Stone Church decided it was time to expand
33 Grrrls to the Front beyond presenting concerts.

34 “One of the things that spurred us to grow the program
35 so significantly was a show I attended nearby,” said Erin Scaggs,
36 program and development director at the Stone Church. “A
37 woman stood near the booth, and for a long time, I didn’t realize
38 she was the tech working the show. When I did, it was like, wow.

39 “That experience really drove home how
40 underrepresented women and other marginalized groups are in
41 the music world, especially in areas like sound engineering,
42 lighting, production, and booking,” said Scaggs.

43 This realization led to the creation of the Stone Church’s
44 women-focused programs and concerts, such as past shows
45 celebrating Women’s History Month.

46 Coming up is a one-day workshop, "Intro to Protest
47 Sound," that teaches effective strategies for a speaker at a rally to
48 be heard.

49 "Each year we kind of create the program based on what
50 there is an appetite and need for, and also what we have," Scaggs
51 said.

52 Scaggs said that, in recent years, "we have focused more
53 on education." The Sound Tech Intensive, run by Stone Church
54 Sound Engineer Dan Richardson, is one of these educational
55 programs.

56 Richardson has designed a comprehensive curriculum
57 that covers all aspects of sound presentation, from running the
58 board to troubleshooting sound problems during a show.

59 The course is open to students of all ages. Participants
60 have ranged in age from teens to 50s.

61 Scaggs said many attended the classes with hopes of
62 going on to work in the field, but that's not always the case.

63 "Some are musicians who want to learn about the tech
64 side of things," Scaggs said. "It can be intimidating for a female
65 musician to walk into a venue and feel out of their depth with the
66 tech. With this greater understanding, they say it gives them more
67 confidence."

68 **((sub))**

69 The sound tech program has run for three years and has
70 proven to be a success with some graduates working in the field.

71 "We almost always have to limit the number of the
72 applicants each time," Scaggs said. "We are really overwhelmed
73 with the number of people applying to be part of the program,
74 which really speaks to there being nothing else quite like this in
75 the region."

76 She added that the Grrrrls are always looking for funding,
77 sponsors, and community support to expand their programs.

78 The most recent class, which had four participants,
79 began in January and concluded last week. The class size was

80 kept small to provide students with plenty of hands-on training
81 on the state of the art sound system at the Stone Church.

82 Each year, the Stone Church has hosted a graduation
83 ceremony concert offering different types of music, and this year
84 they chose metal.

85 “We wanted something that’s going to be fun for the
86 students and requires a fair amount of sound tech,” Scaggs said.

87 “Metal is the biggest draw for the Stone Church.”

88 ((subhed))

89 The Emily Margaret Band, a Brattleboro-based group that
90 performed at the 2025 graduation concert, released a single last
91 week that was recorded live at the Stone Church by Grrrls to the
92 Front graduates. The samba-influenced “Breakfast in Spain” is
93 available on all streaming services.

94 “It was awesome to be on a bill with other women-
95 fronted bands,” said Emily Margaret. “Oftentimes I’m the only
96 woman in the lineup. It was also great to see women behind the
97 soundboard for a change. Dan, from the Stone Church, and the
98 Grrrls graduates doing the live mixing, did an amazing job.”

99 Margaret said she felt “like they really cared about the
100 sound and weren’t dismissive because I’m a young female
101 performer.”

102 This year’s headliner, Sepsiss, is a heavy metal/hard rock
103 band out of Manchester, New Hampshire, which won Hard
104 Rock/Metal Act of the Year at the New England Music Awards in
105 2019 and 2023.

106 The group is led by Melissa Wolfe, who expressed the
107 band’s gratitude at being asked to be part of this show.

108 “Programs like this are incredibly important,” Wolfe said.
109 “Creating space for young women and individuals to learn sound
110 tech and gain hands-on experience in live music is powerful —
111 especially in areas of the industry that have traditionally been
112 male-dominated. The more access and education we create

113 behind the scenes, the stronger and more inclusive our music
114 community becomes.
115 “For us, being part of an event that celebrates that growth
116 and confidence, is something we’re genuinely excited about,”
117 Wolfe added. “If even one of the graduates feels more
118 empowered to step into a venue, studio, or tour environment
119 because of this program, that’s a huge win.”

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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120 This is an all ages show. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are
121 \$15–\$20 and available at stonechurchvt.com.

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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