

—Slug:.....COMM-0863.arts.Emily_Margaret
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Notes from editor (not for publication):

Nicely written as always! Note spelling of Lucas Majer.

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Coming home

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Emily Margaret Band returns to Brattleboro to kick of
3 First Friday outdoor concerts

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 AS SOON AS she made her first public performance at the
6 age of 10, Emily Margaret knew that being on stage was where
7 she belonged.

8 "I love being on stage and sharing my music," she said.
9 "As soon as I did it, I knew that this is what I wanted to do, and I
10 knew I wanted to do it as much as I could."

11 Margaret — known off stage as Emily Matthew-Muller —
12 was only 16 when she formed the rhythm-and-blues-and-jazz-
13 inspired The Emily Margaret Band.

14 The band will help launch the 2026 season of First
15 Fridays in Brattleboro with a free performance at the Harmony
16 Lot Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m.

17 The monthly block party features live music at the
18 Harmony Lot that runs from May through October. The event
19 coincides with Brattleboro’s Gallery Walk.

20 Margaret is the songwriter of the band and is the lead
21 vocalist/guitarist. She will be joined by Lewis Wells of Amherst,
22 Massachusetts, on bass, and Brattleboro residents Nate Porter on
23 lead guitar, and Lucas Majer on drums.

24 They will open for Juice, a New York City-based eclectic
25 indie rock band. (The show was originally scheduled for the
26 Stone Church, but they decided to move it to the Harmony Lot
27 for this special event.)

28 Margaret is a resident of Guilford, and now, at age 18, is
29 a freshman at Emerson College in Boston studying literature,
30 writing, and publishing. Despite her studies, she is still very much
31 involved in music.

32 “I’m not majoring in music because I really love school,
33 literature, and learning,” she explained. “I wasn’t to give up that
34 part of my life yet, but music stays in the forefront along with my
35 education.”

36 It is clear that her music remains a priority for Margaret.
37 She continues to work with her band and occasionally performs
38 solo. She is also the lead singer and songwriter for the Boston-
39 based band NightLily, which includes a group of musicians who
40 attend Berklee College of Music.

41 * * *

42 MUSIC IS AN essential part of Margaret’s life, and she can’t
43 remember a time when it wasn’t. She grew up in a household
44 where all types of music was constantly playing and recalls that

45 at a very young age she especially enjoyed the records of rapper
46 Missy Elliott which her parents played.

47 “When I started talking, they had to turn it off because
48 they realized that I was picking up on the lyrics,” she said with a
49 laugh.

50 Young Margaret’s interest in music did not go unnoticed
51 by her parents, who sent her to the Miss Leticia Music School in
52 Amherst.

53 “My mom tricked me into going to music camp because
54 she heard me singing around the house all day,” said Margaret. “I
55 wanted to go to art camp [and] she said this was an art camp
56 with music — but that was not true.”

57 Margaret ended up falling in love with the school and,
58 all these years later, she teaches there when she can.

59 “I was 4 years old, and when I got there, they handed me
60 a ukulele, and I thought it was awesome and never put it down,”
61 she said.

62 At age 6, she switched to guitar, and at 9 she attended a
63 summer rock program for girls at the Institute for the Musical Arts
64 (IMA) in Goshen, Massachusetts, which was cofounded by June
65 Millington of the pioneering female rock band Fanny.

66 “I wrote my first song there and later performed it at their
67 Lady & the Amp Festival,” Margaret recalled.

68 “The song was called ‘Say Hey,’ and it was a reflection
69 on how IMA supported me to do what I’d been dreaming about
70 — write music. The chorus goes, ‘Say hey, I’ve been waiting for
71 this day / Say hey, how are we lost when we’ve already been
72 found?’”

73 Margaret continued songwriting and performing over the
74 years, including singing backing vocals for Lake Street Dive at the
75 Newport Folk Festival in 2019.

76 In 2024, she formed the Emily Margaret Band, releasing
77 a four-song self-titled EP that employed a jazzy and soulful feel
78 alongside elements of pop and rock. Margaret’s silky vocals shine

79 and her lyrics display a maturity far beyond her years. It was a
80 debut that showed great promise.

81 * * *

82 “MY PROCESS FOR writing is I start with the music and
83 then write the words that feel like the music,” Margaret
84 explained. “And I’m not afraid to write about situations that are
85 foreign to me, which opens up a lot of options.”

86 Performing at festivals (like Brattleboro’s youth festival
87 BrattRock) and at the Marigold led to more connections with
88 other musicians. Soon the Emily Margaret Band grew to eight
89 members, with the lineup varying at each show depending on the
90 venue.

91 Collaborating with other songwriters is something
92 Margaret has done since attending IMA, and the practice has
93 helped her grow as a songwriter.

94 “I learned that while you can collaborate with lots of
95 different people, you won’t always experience the same magic,”
96 she said.

97 “When you click with another songwriter, it’s like two
98 puzzle pieces coming together,” Margaret continued. “Your co-
99 writer introduces you to a whole new strand of creativity while
100 also challenging you musically.”

101 That’s what happened when she met Noah Gibney at a
102 summer songwriting workshop. When he later started attending
103 Berklee, they formed NightLily with other Berklee students.

104 “There is a lot of carryover from my past releases. I think
105 I would describe it as soulful, singer-songwriter-driven pop-rock.”
106 Margaret said in describing NightLily’s music.

107 The group recently recorded a song, “Natalia,” but they
108 don’t have a release date yet.

109 Last March, The Emily Margaret Band released the single
110 “Breakfast in Spain,” recorded live at the Stone Church. They
111 have no immediate plans for recording but are focusing on shows
112 over the summer. This show kicking off First Fridays in the perfect
113 way to start the season off.

114 In addition, the Emily Margaret Band will be at the
115 Chester Town Hall Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m.

116 * * *

117 MARGARET HAS a full plate attending college, and writing
118 and singing for two bands, but she is thriving and has no plans to
119 slow down.

120 "I love playing with both of them so much," she said,
121 noting that the two bands "are in different areas."

122 "I feel like my band at home has a wonderful community
123 around us in southern Vermont and western Massachusetts, so it
124 would be a shame to let that go," Margaret explained. "And in
125 Boston, I'm having a great exchange with these musicians as
126 well."

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

127 **SHERYL HUNTER** is a freelance writer from
128 Easthampton, Massachusetts, and has reported extensively on the
129 regional music scene for many years. Her work has appeared in
130 various regional and national publications.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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