

IRON HORSE

A BAND IN DEMAND

*Written by Judy Henderson
Photo by Legend Photo & Film, LLC*



What do The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Queen, Pink Floyd, The Who, U2, and Steely Dan have in common? They are all bands whose members met each other as schoolmates, forming groups that went on to become some of the most successful rock bands of all time. Some of them have been at it for over 65 years and counting.

And right here in the Farmington Valley — Simsbury, to be exact — is another band that met in school and has already made quite a name for itself.

They call themselves Iron Horse, and despite being young, they are good. Very, very good. And that assessment is coming from a woman who has lived through early folk, the birth of rock and roll, the British invasion of the early sixties, the rise of psychedelic music, the introduction of Motown, heavy metal, soul, R&B, disco, folk rock, punk rock, electronic dance music, new wave, hip hop, and countless crossovers. But don't take my word for it.

Well-known Singer/Songwriter Mike Sasportas is an Iron Horse fan, noting that "... it's been a long time since I've been this impressed! Each member blew me away with their talent, proficiency, and level of professionalism. Keep an eye out for Iron Horse..."

And if audience appreciation isn't enough, just take a peek at their calendar.

This is a band in demand, playing for small private groups, impressive crowds in impressive settings, and at local pubs and taverns throughout the state. Their repertoire of cover hits is so varied with a sound so professional that this past January they scored a recording session at which they taped six songs.

A resume like that makes it hard to believe Iron Horse is a bunch of local kids — but they are.

Like so many successful bands before them, the original members — Carson and Giovanni — met in elementary school, practiced together in junior high, and forged their musical bond as Iron Horse at Simsbury High School. Giovanni began playing the piano and trumpet in elementary school at the same time Carson picked up his first guitar. Today, both are pros. Indeed, Carson now plays a wicked lead guitar and helps manage the band. Giovanni plays both keyboard and

trumpet and performs vocals. When not on stage, Carson attends the Hartt School of Music, where he is majoring in music management, while Giovanni studies biomedical engineering at Trinity College.

In junior high school, Carson and Giovanni met Skyler — a drummer and vocalist — and they joined forces. Skyler also assists with the group's sound engineering. When they don't have a gig, he does his hair — his words, not mine! — and he is studying theater and business at the University of Rhode Island.

And in 2022, two of the group's longtime classmates — Benjamin and Veronica — joined the group, enriching their sound even more. Ben had played keyboard since elementary school and learned to play bass just a month before becoming a member. Two years on, he not only plays both but provides great backup vocals. And when he's not performing with the band, he is making a name for himself at the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University.

Just a couple of months after Benjamin came on board, Veronica did, too, bringing with her the amazing singing voice she began sharing as a baby and now uses in her role as the band's lead vocalist. She also plays a sweet rhythm guitar. And when not doing all of that, she is a neuroscience major at the University of Vermont.

Finally, while Carson helps manage the band and Skyler assists with sound engineering, Iron Horse, like all musical phenomena, has its own entourage, including lighting and sound engineers, management — even groupies. (OK, there might be some nepotism involved there, but then everything's relative.) And recently, the band as a whole has begun doing what all the best bands do: writing their own songs, which are awesome!

Want to serve up some classic-rock cover hits at your next social gathering, party, get-together, reunion, wedding reception, kegger, bash, shindig, hoedown, or other event in need of some seriously excellent music? Contact Iron Horse. They may be young, but their sound is nearly indistinguishable from the original tracks. Truth is, the only thing these five rock stars are missing is the wrinkles.

