

Weekend@ReadingEagle.com

# Weekend



READING, PA  
72° F

- [HOME](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [OPINION](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [LIFE](#)
- [WEEKEND](#)
- [BUSINESS WEEKLY](#)
- [BERKS COUNTRY](#)
- [OBITUARIES](#)
- [MARKETPLACE](#)
- [CLASSIFIEDS](#)
- [SPECIAL SECTIONS](#)
- [MULTIMEDIA](#)

HOME WEEKEND

SEARCH READINGEAGLE.COM



[QUICK LINKS](#)



Courtesy of Danielle Reardon | Members of Mike & the Y-Tones are, from left, Matt McCarty, Adam Coffinberger and Mike Yesconis.

## Mike & the Y-Tones celebrating release of mini-LP at Mike's Tavern

Written by [Don Botch](#)

Thursday October 5, 2017 12:01 AM

For the longest time, Mike Yesconis didn't think the words in his head were good enough.

If you go

### What Do You Think?

**Trivia: How many U.S.-born scientists were awarded a 2017 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries around biological clocks?**

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- I'm not sure

NEXT

loading...

What people are reading

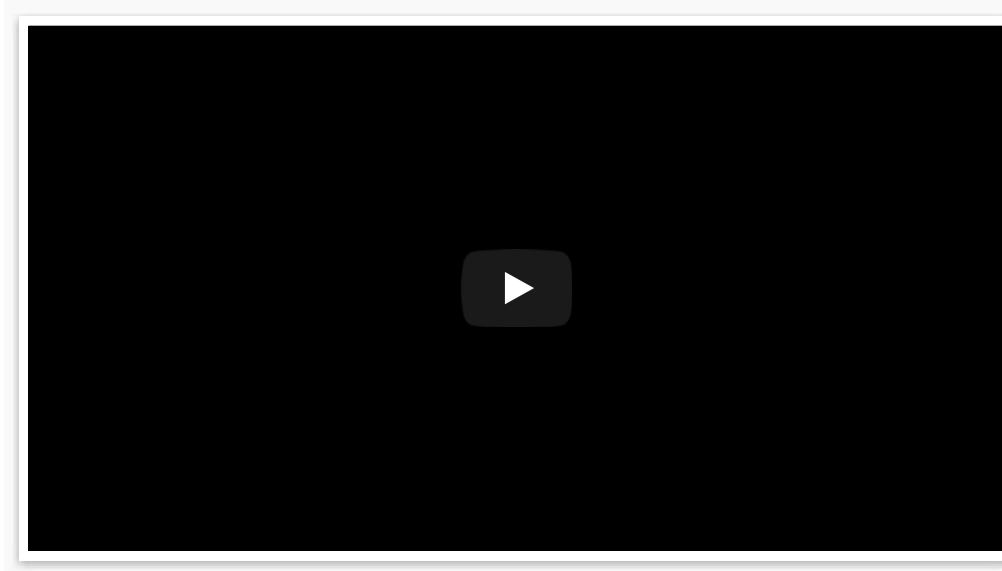
A multi-instrumentalist and sideman in bands like Tin Bird Choir, James Jewell and the Worms, the Cultivators and, currently, La Overtoner, Yesconis was admittedly shy about stepping out front and revealing too much of himself.

"I felt 10 to 12 years ago, everything I wrote wasn't necessarily anything of substance, because life was sort of easy, things were carefree, and I hadn't really reached stages in life where I was dealing with a lot of heavy stuff," he said during a break in a recent rehearsal at drummer Matt McCarty's Shillington home.

But then things began to change, and life, as it predictably will, started happening fast.

First there was a divorce, followed by the death of his father, and then caring for his ailing mother until her death in February.

"During that time period, I really started writing for therapy, and real stuff started coming out, and I found a voice at that point,



which I never really had," Yesconis said.

In late 2015, he made McCarty's acquaintance by chance one night, seated at the bar at Mike's Tavern after La Overtoner had finished playing. The former drummer for Flux Capacitor and Boop

**Event:** Mike & the Y-Tones CD release party

**When:** 8 p.m. Friday

**Where:** Mike's Tavern, 135 Exeter St.

**Admission:** Free

**Web:** [www.y-tones.com](http://www.y-tones.com)

MOST POPULAR

- ▶ 1. Woman suffers serious head injury in Berks
- ▶ 2. Clues few and elusive for motive of Las Vegas gunman
- ▶ 3. Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame set to induct 5 new members
- ▶ 4. Judge to study financial transactions of drug-treatment nonprofit with ties to Berks
- ▶ 5. Franklin Labs: We will build in Reading, sale or no sale
- ▶ 6. Sly Fox Brewing considers opening in VF Outlet Center
- ▶ 7. Minivan crashes into front of several homes in Reading Wednesday night
- ▶ 8. Robesonia woman stole pizza delivery driver's vehicle, police say
- ▶ 9. Giving Goes Glam Fashion Show benefits Family Promise of Berks County (PHOTO GALLERY)
- ▶ 10. 'I have a purpose,' Pulse shooting survivor says at Penn State Berks (VIDEO)

## Reader Photo Galleries



Reading celebration reader photo gallery

Submit your photos!

## Purchase Daily Photos

Speed:  Photo 1 of 70

Loomis was itching to end his "musical hiatus," happened to live down the road from Yesconis and had a basement where they could practice.

"I'm like, 'Oh my god,' " Yesconis said with a big grin. "Know what I mean?"

As if that wasn't enough, McCarty knew of a bassist, Adam Coffinberger, who had recently moved to Mohnton, where Yesconis lives, from southern Lancaster County.

Yesconis still has to pinch himself when he thinks about how everything suddenly fell into place.

"I just feel really fortunate to have the Y-Tones in my life," he said. " Every time we do a show, I get lots of compliments on the rhythm section. I feel fortunate. I'm very happy that I'm doing this with these guys."

It didn't take them long to develop a chemistry, and already they've learned upwards of 40 of Yesconis' original tunes, which McCarty and Coffinberger agreed are fun to play.

On Friday night, they'll celebrate the release of their first recording, a mini-LP called "Words in My Head," at Mike's Tavern. They recorded it with Daniel Bower at his Whelp House studio in Glenmoore, and are releasing it on Bill Whalen's Pottsville-based Blind Pigeon imprint.

It contains six rocking songs that come and go in a flash. The whole record runs a grand total of 18 minutes and reflects punk and indie influences that date back to Yesconis' college days spent listening to the likes of Pavement, Husker Du, Jawbreaker and Guided by Voices.

"I learned from Guided by Voices that it's OK to have a one-minute song with two lines," he said. "I think you just don't have to say too much. If you can, say it with less words. Like, what is poetry? Saying something the most beautiful way in the least amount of words. It's more effective if it's just less."

Yesconis' lyrics might touch on anything from relationships to the covertly political. They're snippets of life.

He's proud of "Divide and Conquer," a simple, two-line song that you might not even realize is about current events until he tells you so.

"It's like the oldest tactic in the world for sources of power, to divide the populace and make them weak and overtake them," Yesconis said. "It (the song) is just sort of like, 'Hey, do you know about this phenomenon that you're all taking part of?' "

Yesconis said he had a clear musical vision from the outset: "When I formed the band I was trying to keep it as simple as possible: A trio. Play electric guitar. Mostly clean tone. I don't want to be futzing with lots of things. And I like pop elements.



Daily photos from 10/5/2017

"My attention span, and I think people's attention spans these days, they just want short, quick stuff, but they want it to be real and maybe rocking. Or sweet, or soulful."

So far, based on the reactions of crowds, they feel like they've struck a chord.

"People of all ages seem to like our music," McCarty said.

As time goes on, Yesconis finds he's getting more comfortable with the idea of being the frontman, and he's grateful for the encouragement he has gotten along the way, especially from his longtime girlfriend and La Overtoner bandmate, Marie Chelius.

"At 44 years old," he said, "I'm breaking out of my shell, I guess, and kind of rolling with it till it doesn't feel right anymore. And I told these guys, I just want to have fun. We can't take things too seriously. We have to keep it light and have fun with it."



**DON BOTCH | FEATURES WRITER**

Don Botch is a features writer for the Reading Eagle.

**Phone:** 610-371-5055

**Email:** [dbotch@readingeagle.com](mailto:dbotch@readingeagle.com)

**Work Website:** <http://readingeagle.com/weekend>

---



ADJUST FONT SIZE: A A A

## Other Stories



### Today at noon: Berks football chat

Mike Drago hosts a live chat every Thursday.



### Saints place Wyomissing grad Anzalone on IR

The rookie linebacker injured his shoulder early in Sunday's game against the Dolphins.



### Muhlenberg Township man sentenced in adult store attack

He assaulted a clerk at Cupid's Arcade, Richmond Township late last year.



### Wolf says he'll borrow to patch deficit

He says he will use profits from state-controlled liquor system to borrow money to help fill a projected \$2.2 billion deficit.

Welcome guest! | [subscribe](#) | [log in](#)

---

### Comments (0)

*By leaving a comment you agree to our*

[commenting policy](#)

Be the first to comment.

You must log in before you can post comments.

### Want to know the big stories of the day?

Sign up for Reading Eagle Top Stories e-newsletter. A daily email will include links to the day's top stories in News, Life, Sports and more.

---

## Editorial

News  
Money  
Sports  
Berks GameDay  
Life  
Voices  
Business Weekly  
Berks Country  
Weekend  
Opinion  
Obituaries

## Content

Columnists  
Blogs  
eEdition  
Archives  
TVTimes  
Special Sections  
Events









## Marketplace

Classified Directory  
Find A Job  
Find A Car  
Find A Rental  
Find A Home  
Find A Date  
Find Merchandise  
Celebrations  
Reader Rewards  
Reproductions  
Big Deal\$

## Services

Contact Us  
Subscriber Services  
FAQs  
Advertise With Us  
Lottery  
Feedback  
User Submissions  
Newspaper in Education  
Internet Directory

## Follow Us

 Facebook  
 Twitter  
 Pinterest  
 Tumblr  
 Google+  
 Mobile  
 RSS  
 Alerts

**READING EAGLE  
COMPANY**

**RE** INTERNET  
SERVICES

**R·E·P**  
COMMERCIAL PRINTING  
RELIABLE • EXPERIENCED • PROGRESSIVE

**WEEU**

**Berks  
Country**

**READING EAGLE  
BUSINESS WEEKLY**

**Berks  
GameDay**

**BIGdeals**

**Pretzel  
City**  
PRODUCTIONS

### Reading Eagle Company

345 Penn Street | Reading, PA | 19603 | 610.371.5000

[Contact us](#) | [Archives](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Advertise with us](#)

©2013-2014 Reading Eagle Company. All Rights Reserved - These links are not endorsements of any products or services in such sites, and no information in such site has been endorsed or approved by this site.