

Interview by Tim Board

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Photo credit: Michael Baltierra

Music by Limberlost
"Good Fight"

You probably already are familiar with the rich music history of Seattle. The city has brought the music world such bands as Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Jimi Hendrix, Soundgarden, and many, many, more. Add Limberlost to that list of fine musicians coming out of Seattle. The six-member group will be releasing their sophomore album "Good Fight" in 2021. The singles that have been released indicate the album should be a tasty treat for fans of the group. Krystle Pyette (vocals), Brittany Lauren (vocals), Mike Burt (drums), Anthony Ciarochi (keyboards), Ricky Dunn, (guitar), and Ben Beman (bass) comprise the band Limberlost. Krystle and Mike were kind enough to participate in this interview.

Tim Board: How did Limberlost get started? What is the origin of the band?

Mike Burt: We actually started as a worship team. Well, first it was a chance encounter on Craigslist between Ricky and me. LOL! The two of us started writing in early 2011 and playing with a few different folks but nothing stuck. In 2013, Krystle joined in and we all served at the same church. In 2016, we started recording and started playing our first live shows. By this time, Ben had joined the group. We had a few keyboard players and added a background singer in late 2017. In 2018, we released 'Volume I' and decided to get serious, so we officially incorporated the brand and started to require a certain commitment level. That led to two more changes to our current line up where we added Brittany and Anthony a little over two years ago...and we couldn't be more excited about this group and our future.

TB: What is the writing process for the band? Is it one person or a group effort?

Krystle Pyette: We each bring ideas to the table, and the ones that gel get worked into their final form by the group. Sometimes we are inspired by an impromptu jam at rehearsal, some are ideas that we have thrown around for years. We don't limit our writing to any prescriptive method, and I think our flow has allowed us to have a diverse sound.

TB: When writing a song, how does the band know when the song is complete, when there is nothing more to add to the song?

KP: I don't think there is ever truly a point when all 6 of us actually stop having ideas to tweak things here or there, but once we decide to record something, we have to put that aside. Mike, who is both our drummer and manager, puts a studio date on the calendar. That gives us a deadline that motivates us to have the ideas worked out. We have up until our individual parts are recorded to change things, but then you have to walk away and start thinking about the song as a whole. How do the parts interact? How much time can we spend in the studio? How much money are we willing to throw at changing the mix over and over? There comes a time when it's necessary to accept the thing for what it is in that moment. The stuff you still want to change can then inform and energize the next song.



TB: Your debut album was the seven-song album 'Volume 1.' Talk about that album.

KP: Early on, we just started recording songs one by one. We never sat down to write an album, but we were playing shows and there came a day when enough people had asked for a CD, that we finally put together our collected works.

MB: I have to throw in that 'Volume 1' actually won 'Album of the Year' at the 2019 ISSA Awards, which was a huge honor and kind of a surprise to us because like Krystle said, it was more of a collection than an album to us.

TB: Did you have more than the seven songs that appeared on the album? How did you decide on the seven that made the cut?

KP: At that point it was everything. We don't really invest in any song idea further than the beginning stages unless we can really see it being a strong song for us both live and recorded. We make those decisions pretty early, so we don't end up spending time and money recording things that aren't going to make it to an album or a single release. It might be different if we were recording and producing entirely on our own and had all the time in the world to spend without cost. Investing in yourself by using a good studio challenges you to edit yourself and utilize your resources wisely.



TB: You are scheduled to release your sophomore album 'Good Fight' later this year. How do you feel the band has grown from the first album to this one?

KP: We have had our current lineup of members for the majority of the time since our last album release, so the people involved have a big influence on our sound and writing. I'd say we have more intent going into this album in that we wanted to write certain kinds of songs to have a good balance and representation of who we are now. This album also includes some songs that were produced by Timothy Eaton. Having his experience and input on the project has had a big impact, especially on the title track. That song is a big, thematic song with a lot of personal meaning to us that came to life and became more than we expected it could be because of his input and guidance.

TB: What can the listener expect from the second album?

MB: A story of who we are and where we are going. There is what you would expect from us but also some twists. A couple covers. A ballad. A jam. A duet. A collaboration. A lot of love, sweat, rock, and tears.

TB: I read that the song 'Setting Sun' off the upcoming album was written by the late Wayne Perry, who wrote for The Backstreet Boys, Tim McGraw, and others along with Tommy Barnes who wrote Tim McGraw's 'Indian Outlaw,' and that 'Setting Sun' originally was a country song. How did the song reach the band?

MB: Our previous distributor was Perry Music Group out of Nashville. Brian's dad is the late Wayne Perry. One day, he asked me if we would be willing to take one of his daddy's songs and give it the Limberlost treatment. Their song was 'House of the Setting Sun' and it was old school Hank Williams Jr. style country. We looked at it for about a month like 5-year old's look at a bowl of brussels sprouts. We then decided to just go with the song's direction and keep it dark. Tarantino it up, if you will. Ha! Shortened the title and changed just about everything except the words and story. Story has it that Tommy Barnes the other co-writer didn't like it, so we had a little struggle with the licensing and publishing, but eventually it worked out and it was our fastest growing song on Spotify until we released 'The Real Thing.'

TB: The band has received various nominations and awards over the last few years. Beyond awards, how does the band define success?

KP: We highly value all of the people who have come alongside us. We would not be where we are without their support, involvement, and input. The family that has grown through all of this is our biggest win...our engineer, Dave Smith of Crash Bang Boom productions, our video guy Dave Jimenez, producer Timothy Eaton, the incredible teams at Von Artists and Paul Crosby Management, our Road Crew, our dedicated fans and friends who come to the shows, the incredible online indie radio stations that give us airplay, and so many others! Their belief in us and the friendships we have built are some of our prized possessions as a band. In the end, you can do what you can do, but we don't have control over everything in this crazy world. We have our goals and aspirations, but the destination is an unknown and we value the journey for what it is. Success is doing what we love and hopefully making a difference along every step of the way.

TB: How has the band used the down time caused by the shutdown of concerts due to COVID?

KP: We just knew that we could never stop. We found ways to continue working on the different video and recording projects that we were working on when things shut down. My favorite is when I ended up in my bedroom closet with a borrowed computer and a pile of recording gear so we could finish tracking vocals on the song 'Real Thing.' Being flexible and resilient are key areas in which I have seen this band grow, making changes as necessary, but always looking toward the next opportunity. We will be ready to hit the ground running as soon as it's possible for us to do so. Never be discouraged by adversity and wring every bit of benefit out of it by learning and being pushed beyond your perceived limitations. That's always been our way of operating, and the challenges we face during the pandemic are no different. We do what we can, and we find a way, or we find something else to do.

TB: Do you see tours returning in 2021 and is Limberlost planning a tour?

MB: Oh, yes, for sure! There are parts of the country that are open right now. You must be willing and able to get there. We have several shows planned and a late summer tour in the works. We are in a good place because we stayed on course. The industry as a whole will struggle for a while, but it will figure itself out. I just got our manager's tour schedule (Paul Crosby from Saliva) and they already have about 30 dates. If you want to work, there's work!

TB: Beyond the new album this year, what is also on the horizon for Limberlost?

MB: Yes, we plan to release our new album 'Good Fight' soon. Plan on a couple new videos and a couple of new singles later in the year. We have a very solid team, so we are going to leverage that heavily this year, expanding our footprint both digitally and physically. It's time to get with each other and ROCK!!

The rest of 2021 looks to be a busy time for Limberlost with the release of the new album "Good Fight," music videos, tour dates in August, including an appearance at the Snake River Rock Festival in Idaho August 6, 2021. Be sure to follow the group on social media to see if the group is playing near you. One other thing, it pays to attend church service, you might just find your next band members! I want to thank Mike and Krystle from Limberlost for taking time to do this interview.

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