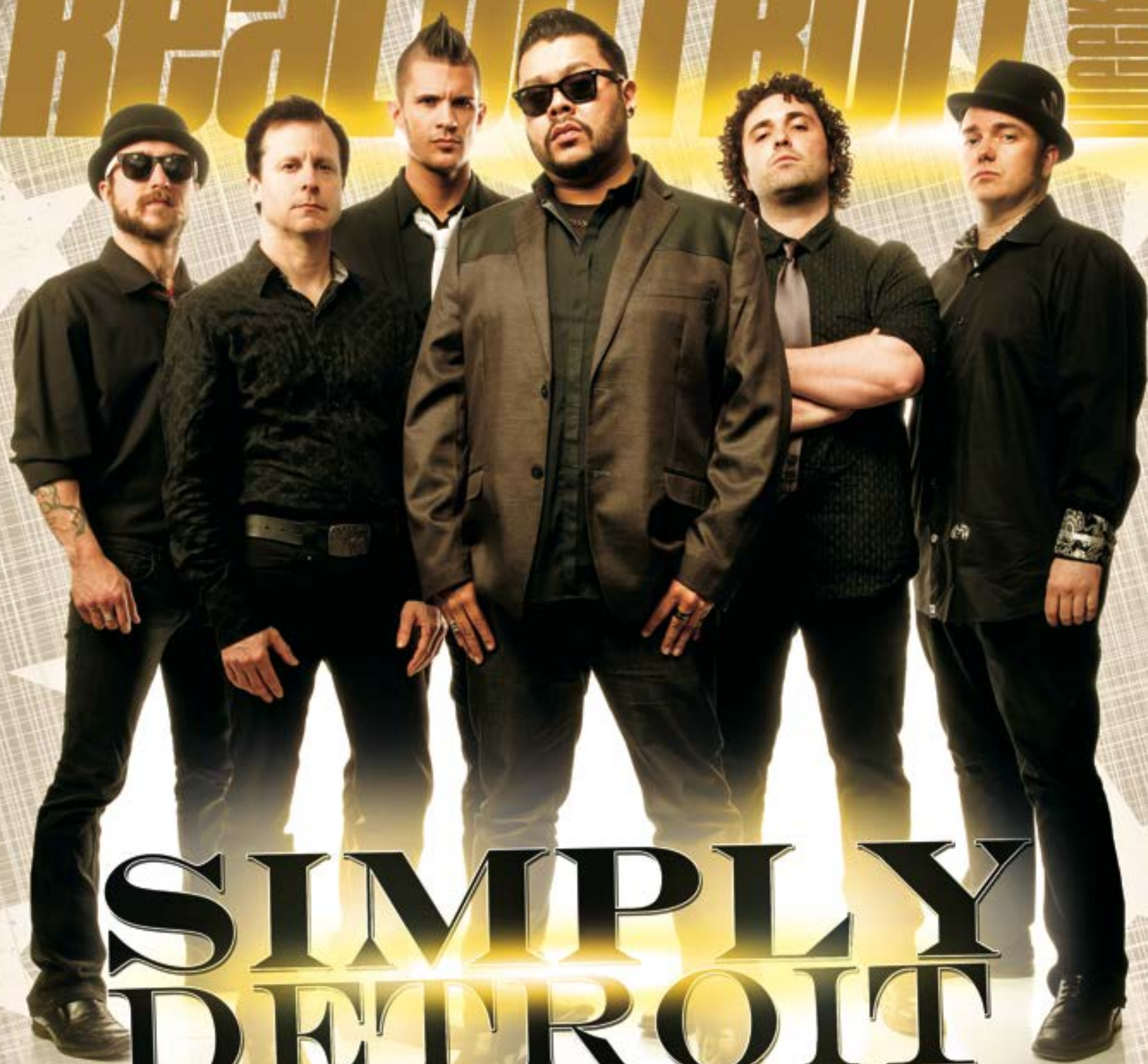


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# REAL DETROIT WEEKLY



# SIMPLY DETROIT

THE INFATUATIONS HAVE US OBSESSED WITH THE DMS

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# THE INFATUATIONS

ROCKIN' THE BLOCK by Gary Bartle

One of the most beautiful things about music from Detroit is that it is incredibly diverse. There is not a singular sound that permeates the region. We are blessed in that sense. We have great rock. We have soul. We have crooners. The Infatuations are all of that wrapped into one band.

The funk-rock ensemble with soul to boot are mainstays of the great local scene. They might be headlining a show one night, opening for someone the next, and then getting on stage with THE Patti LaBelle a few nights later. That is exactly what happened for talented frontman Caleb Gutierrez.

At one of Labelle's recent shows, Gutierrez was recognized in the crowd. The next thing he knew, he was singing onstage with one of the Queens of American music. Talent recognizes talent. That is essentially how the band's co-founder, Christian Darheim got the guys together.

Darheim and Marco Lowe originally started the band as an acoustic cover duo. After realizing they had a knack for creating a unique but familiar sound, they expanded rapidly and started performing regularly. Drawing from everything is one of the keys to their success. From the Motown soul of the city to the garage rock coming from The Stooges or MC5 or the White Stripes, The Infatuations encompass the best parts about that Detroit sound and people have noticed.

Gutierrez, Darheim and crew have amassed 14 Detroit Music Award nominations. Fourteen. You know when you have to start using toes as counting tools for noms, you have done pretty well for

yourself. This is just the beginning, really. The Infatuations possess a work ethic that any band wishes they had. After a successful 2013, the boys aren't resting on their laurels, either.

May 10 will see the band take over St. Andrew's Hall in what promises to be one of the biggest parties this year. They are teaming up with Ty Stone and together are throwing a dual release party. Their new album *Detroit Block Party* sees the band evolve into a creative force that nurtures talent from everyone involved. RDW called up Darheim and Gutierrez to talk about the DMAs, the new record and what drives the crew as they reach for new heights. Read on:

**With so many strong characters in the band, how do you maintain a forward-moving band?**

Christian Draheim: It's about dedication to the project. It comes before any individual. When you have the same common goal in mind, you can make it work. We want all of us to have a successful career.

**What's the creation process like?**

CD: A lot of songs start with me and Marco. For this record, we're really looking forward to a full collaboration. Everybody in the band is a writer. Caleb and Nick have done some songwriting for the record.

**Caleb, you have a spectacular voice. What is it like getting to express it through great songs like "Yesterday Morning"?**

Caleb Gutierrez: As a singer, I lose myself in the song. I try to find one person in the audience to focus on and get some eye contact going. The delivery can be really, really cool.

**Do you guys get fans coming up after that show that are pretty much infatuated with Caleb's voice?**

CD: Absolutely. Caleb is the most visible person in the band at this point. He supports a lot of bands and events in the city, too. He gets approached all the time.

CG: It helps that there is something for anybody that listens to the music. My grandparents can love it. All ages really. They'll come up and say "You made my day" and, "Can't wait to hear more." I go out and support local music to show we all got each other's back around town. I'm honored when people ask if I want to jam.

**Hearing that positivity must be rejuvenating. Is that one of the best parts about making music?**

CD: It's certainly not because we're getting paid a ton of money to do it.

CG: It's because we love it.

CD: Yeah, nailed it on the head there. It's a lot of love.

**What is it about you guys that have made you one of the hardest working bands in Detroit?**

CD: We're kind of misfits. The band took two years to really get together. This is the one place we all

come together. This is where we get our confidence. And it works well because our egos don't get in the way of things. We come together for a mission. Sorry to run off a little bit but I get excited about that stuff.

**You guys pulled in 14 Detroit Music Award nominations. That's a ton!**

CG: Just being nominated for that many just makes you feel good. It comes from your peers, so there is respect there. Getting through all the phases... to have that many... it's an honor, really.

CD: Whether we win or don't win, it's awesome to have that many nominations. It's cool. It's from musical peers and sometimes when there can be competition, things can get weird. But we were taken aback when we found out. Pop rock, urban funk and R&B nominations for Caleb are pretty cool, too.

**The diversity in your nominations is reflective of the band itself.**

CG: It is cool. It represents the band essentially. We have soul, we have rock, we have pop. Being the lead singer is great, but it's special when it gets recognized like that. I'm just honored. In the end, it is really awesome.

RDW

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*The Infatuations and Ty Stone: Detroit Block Party on the Boulevard • 5/10, 6 p.m. • Saint Andrew's Hall • 431 E. Congress, Detroit • saintandrews.com • 313.961.8961 • 513*