



From left to right: McCrea Adams, James McGovern, Max Dearth, Sam Morgan, Gerald Davis, Jr., Jeff Jefferies, Tomo Bullum and Leon C

Absolute

By John DeFaria



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A few weeks ago I was invited to George Petrelli's on a Sunday afternoon. I was told the food was good and the band was great! When I arrived, a Funk and Soul powerhouse of a band called ABSOLUTE was literally tearing down the house. Add to that the fact that I can count on one hand the number of times I've been out to hear live music in the past two years (thank

you COVID!), I was ecstatic!

Gerald Davis Jr., the band's lead singer and front man, was serving it up with his soulful renditions of Van Morrison's "Domino" and Dobie Grey's "Drift Away." Jeff Jefferies, the band's drummer, was lighting the fire underneath the band.

James Cornelius McGovern/trumpet, Max Dearth/trumpet, and Sam Morgan/tenor sax, were representing the younger generation in the band's lineup, but you wouldn't know it to hear them.

Well blended, tight, and punchy, these young guys have done their homework! For me, a horn section in a Funk band is the icing on the cake.

McCrea Adams on keyboards, and Tomo Bullum on bass, round-out this fierce ensemble. Leon C, the guitar player, is as funky as they come with tasty licks and a deep knowledge of the music the band performs. I spoke with him a few days later and we had a few laughs.

"In our set lists we stay with the big hits from the classic artists but that are also great songs," Leon explains. "We've honed our repertoire to play the 'Cream of the Crop'; the best tunes from the R&B, Funk, Soul, and Classic Rock catalogues."

Leon also explained to me how they came up with the band's name. "When we were trying to come up with names, Tomo's criteria was for it to be catchy and the name had to start with the letter 'A.' After a while, I came up with 'Absolute,' then Gerald said, 'That's perfect, but can we spell it like this?: 'AB-SOUL-UTE.' It stuck. It was a total team effort!"

Leon and Jeff originally put the band together in 2016. "Not that long ago," Leon reminds me, "But a good 2 1/2 of those years were sucked up by COVID. I had been playing with Jeff Jefferies from Culver City for years, mostly in classic rock bands. Eventually we both wanted more of an R&B and Soul sound."

Leon continues, "I had run into Gerald a number of times at jam sessions and was always knocked out by his voice. I asked him if he was interested in singing with us and showed him a list of songs. He countered it with a list of songs of his own and there was about an 85-percent overlap. We mutually agreed right there."

Hey, if you're interested in hearing ABSOLUTE, they'll be playing weekend gigs continually at Petrelli's in Culver City on Sundays for the next few months from 4:30 until 6:30pm. Here are the dates: September 25; October 23; November 13; and December 4. Visit their website at AbsoluteBand.com for more information and to sign up for their mailing list.

ABSOLUTE DELIVERS!

John DeFaria is a composer/guitarist who's recorded and toured with Gloria Estefan, Kenny Loggins, Jon Anderson of Yes, Kitaro, and Ambrosia. He continues to compose and place music on TV shows for the "Discovery Channel," "Warner Bros.," "ABC," "Bravo," and "Lifetime."



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