

Tremont Bricks and Picks

words: Ellen Gurley

photos of Tremont and bricks: Justin Driscoll

photos of guitar picks: courtesy of Brian Carpenter

Not all heroes have capes. Sometimes they just show up with trucks. Justin Driscoll and Brian Carpenter are two of those heroes. If there's one thing that I have learned, having lived in Charlotte all of my forty years, it is that we cannot become attached to property. This is not an invitation to an open ended conversation about growth or gentrification, it is a call for the preservation of memories. Stay with me.

Justin Driscoll became a man within the walls of Tremont Music Hall. Upon learning of their demolition, he hauled as many bricks as he could over to Neal Harper. Driscoll dragged the Tremont yellow bricks over to Harper who engraved them with the logo. In an attempt to hold onto something very precious to themselves, they put their sadness and anger in the trash and presented those instrumental with their own brick. Now every time Driscoll walks by his personal chunk of history, he can hear Converge, Glass Jaw, Snapcase, the Deftones, Green Day, Earth Crisis, the Gaslight Anthem, BoySetsFire, Fugazi, Social Distortion, Rancid, the Business, Shai Hulud, Poison The Well, Agnostic Front, ALL, H2O, Avail, Hot Water Music, Helmet, Hatebreed, AFI, Offspring, Prayer for Cleansing, Bane, Comeback Kid, Defeater, BTBAM, Cro-Mags, Every Time I Die, Dillinger Escape Plan, Finch, Hopesfall, Candiria, Beloved, Zao, Evergreen Terrace, the Henry Rollins Band, A Life Once Lost, Bleeding Through, Hank the Third, Bayside, the Misfits, Gregg Allman, Neurosis, Soulfly, Tom Morello, Ictive, Murs, Simon Says, 36 Crazyfists, Cave In, Cursive, ANTiSEEN, Five Times Down, Clout, Setback, Black Acid Disco, 14 Feet Wide, Swift, He Is Legend, the Beatdowns, Glass Casket, Wretched, Atreyu, From Autumn to Ashes, Reflux, Animals as Leaders, the Casualties, ASG, Devil Driver, Superjoint Ritual, and, as he says, "every local band ever".



Unless you've been living under a brick, you remember that Brian Carpenter crafted rings made from wood sourced from the Double Door Inn. He is still making these rings and has harvested wood and metal from the Tremont Music Hall for another fun project. Carpenter, a member of several of the bands mentioned above, has combined these materials to present to us guitar picks filled with love that are available at this time.



My City Magazine thinks that these men are champions of historical preservation. To anyone who says that they are capitalizing on other people's losses, we say to you that this is everyone's loss. Anyone who has enjoyed years worth of shows in any venue, is grieving their demise. My experience has equipped me with the detachment to say goodbye to the buildings while holding onto the memories forever. What are you doing to hold onto the past? I collect recipes. Doing your part is the real call of action here that comes to you with the nudge to go enjoy the venues that are still standing. There are more memories to be made yet in Charlotte.

To obtain a guitar pick from Brian Carpenter call 704-345-7506