

# Former Iowa City band packs on the miles

Euforquestra will headline at Redstone Room

By Tripp J Crouse

[features@gctimes.com](mailto:features@gctimes.com)

>>>Don't let the name hang you up. It's easy to say. Euforquestra.

"It's like combining the words euphoria and orchestra," said Mike Tallman, the guitarist for the band. "A lot of people get thrown off by it. Just seeing it, it's really confusing for people."

It helps to pronounce it you-FOUR-keh-stra.

"People have a tough time," said the 27-year-old Iowa native who'll celebrate his birthday in March. "It takes them a minute, and then once they get it, it's just like flipping a switch and they got it. It can be a little tricky for people at first, especially if they see it without hearing it."

The Afro-beat/reggae/funk band, based out of Fort Collins, Colo., will play at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Redstone Room in downtown Davenport. The show, which also will feature Fire-

## if you go

**What:** Euforquestra, with FireSale

**When:** 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12

**Where:** Redstone Room, downtown Davenport

**How much:** \$8

**Information:** [redstone-room.com](http://redstone-room.com)

>>> **ONLINE:** Hear more about Euforquestra's influences at [gctimes.com/goanddo](http://gctimes.com/goanddo).



Euforquestra will perform Saturday at the River Music Experience's Redstone Room.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sale, is a 19-and-older event. Tickets are \$8.

Tallman began playing in a band called Euforia while attending high school in Des Moines. A few years down the road, while attending college in Iowa City, the band acquired a few more members, incorporating a horn section and a percussionist.

"In 2003, we were setting up for our first official show with the horns and the percussionist. We were just a four-piece band before that," Tallman said. "After setting up for our first show, we got onstage and somebody said

it looked like an orchestra setup after sound check. Someone came up with the word Euforquestra that night and we just went with it. April 2003 was the first official Euforquestra gig."

The band now includes seven members, including Tallman, Austin Zaletel on alto saxophone, Ryan Jeter on tenor sax, Matt Grundstad, percussion, Adam Grosso, drums, Ben Zoltau, bass, and Matt Wright on the keys.

Vocals are shared by Zaletel, Tallman, Jeter, Grundstad, Zoltau and Wright.

Originally based out of

Iowa City, the band moved its base to Fort Collins, which is about 65 miles north of Denver, to embrace the music industry and connections there.

The seven-piece group has had its ups and downs over the years and just recently bought a diesel-fueled van to tour in because they needed to replace their old vehicle.

"The last couple of years, we've done like 60,000 and 70,000 miles on a gas-engine van," Tallman said. "We drove the van into the ground. It had over 100,000 miles on it when we bought

it, and we're pulling a trailer most of the time."

"We found this new diesel van in California and flew Austin out to get it. We're hoping it'll serve us better for pulling the trailer and just

doing lots and lots of miles."

The band recently got to see a large part of the Midwest post-blizzard. Luckily, the roads were clear as the band traveled from Omaha, Neb., to Ames, Iowa, with a stop in Des Moines.

It's easy to see how a band can put the miles on a vehicle. From Ames, the band planned a stop in Chicago, then back to Iowa to play in Cedar Falls and Des Moines, and then on to St. Louis and Iowa City before playing in Davenport.

"We're excited. We love the Redstone Room and are really pumped to get there on a weekend," Tallman said. "I think it'll be a really good way to close out the tour for us before the long drive home."

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