

# Ex-Bombers to drop in on Quad-City music scene

## Drum-and-bass duo to play Bier Stube show with The Post-Mortems

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The Ex-Bombers purposely distance themselves from sugar-coated music, having formed after meeting and playing together with Pat Boone's Farm in Columbia, Mo.

Scott Walus and Keri Cousins formed a drum-and-bass duo out of that group and took a very different path.

Part of the Cavetone Records label and based out of Charleston, Ill., the pair stripped their music of digital distortion and effects. Walus (eight-string

Hagstrom bass and vocals) and Cousins (drums and vocals) play a deceptively seedy rendition of a dark, moody beatnik/jazz, something you might only find in some underground dive bar in the back alley of a Bond film.

But the transition from Pat Boone's Farm to their own project wasn't easy for fans of their earlier work.

"The people who know you from that other band, they see it as somewhat of a continuation, but it was a very conscious split," Walus said in a telephone interview from Charleston. "That band was weird. I wanted to do something totally divergent.

"When we were in Columbia, we had a lot of people who liked Pat Boone's Farm. A bunch of people came out to the first show and said, 'We don't like it.' I thought we might be on to something."

The new direction gave Walus an opportunity to play in a style he hadn't been able to express with his previous band.

"That was just a space that I had never been able to explore," said Walus, who teaches media studies at Eastern Illinois University. "You have this record collection with a lot of stuff you really like and you're afraid to play that stuff that style because nobody else is going to like it, but the minute you get over that and don't pander and ultimately just think about what musical space you're going to explore ... then I think you can do some really interesting things. You can take some chances lyrically, definitely take some chances instrumental-wise, song structure-wise, volume, too.

"I think it was just a good reflection of how we felt at the

time, which was kind of moody and kind of crazy and a little dark," Cousins said. "We didn't feel like being the happy pop band anymore, and we want to come play this show and freak everyone out a little bit and then sit in a corner.

"I feel like some of my favorite albums are during a low point in people's lives. They're very emotional and not necessarily depressing and sad, but just an outpouring of emotion," she said. "Sometimes that's what you get with us. Sometimes our music is like that. We've been stewing over something for months, and now it's coming out in this song and now you're going to see it or you're going to hear it."

The Ex-Bombers approach to music is reflected in their low-tech production strategy and distinct choice not to release

### if you go

**Who:** Ex-Bombers, also featuring The Post-Mortems, Cedar Plank Salmon and Satellite Heart

**When:** 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23

**Where:** Bierstube, 415 15th St., Moline

**How much:** \$5 cover

**On the Web:** facebook.com/TheExBombers

digital versions of their music.

Recorded on open reel and mixed analog, their LP "The Tightwire" is available only on vinyl. But they won't be upset if you transfer it to a digital format.

"I don't like the idea of songs being online, floating around," Walus said. "In the same breath, I'm OK with someone taking our record, transferring and burning it on CD to give to their friends."