

Seniors Connor Cox, Jake Trease, Tanner Bott and 2009 graduate Josh Alspaw (not pictured) are Streamside. Photo by Shanice Davis



Streamside

Band records debut album, appear on iTunes

Shanice Davis

MANAGING AND PHOTO EDITOR

Growing up it is every young boys dream to become a member of a band and rock out with their friends. For seniors Tanner Bott, Jake Trease, Connor Cox and 2009 graduate Josh Alspaw that dream became a reality.

Originally named Crooked X, Bott, Trease and Alspaw formed the band when they were in middle school. As Crooked X they played music created by other artists that they looked up to for inspiration such as Relient K.

"We wrote about three songs

as Crooked X but now we write our own songs," Bott said.

Crooked X made their first official appearance in the Derby Middle School talent show as they played "Sadie Hawkins Dance" by Relient K in 2004. Although they didn't come in first they went back to the basics and continued to practice.

"After the talent show, we practiced and came back in 8th grade and dominated the talent show," Cox said.

Shortly after their second appearance in the DMS talent show it was decided that it was time to change the group name.

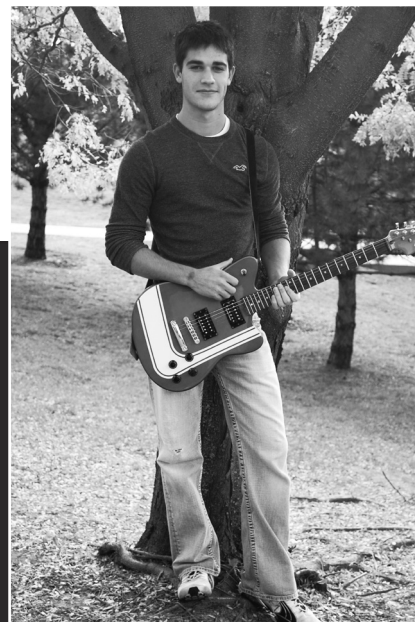
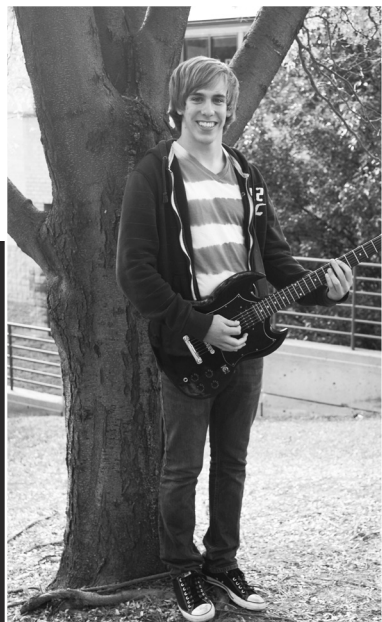
"We matured after middle school

and changed our name to show people we are taking it seriously," Bott said.

Bott is the lead vocalist and plays guitar. Although Alspaw graduated last year and now resides in Manhattan he still plays as the drummer whenever he is in town. Trease is the bass player along with co-vocals with Bott and also writes all the lyrics for the group. He finds his inspiration for the songs in many different places.

"Things I go through or things I'm thinking about," Trease said. "It all kind of merges together."

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Tanner Bott

“ Now our music has more meaning and shows that it’s really important to us.

Tanner Bott, senior

At times Bott will create lyrics of his own and bring them to Trease. Then the two of them will pull out their guitars and begin playing music that they feel will best suite the lyrics. After they put together a sample of what they like they then present it to the rest of the group to get their final opinion. In the beginning, the group relied on other famous band’s music to play for their shows and inspiration for the few songs they had written. Now each band member has their own personal inspiration as they have

Jake Trease

Practice both instrument and writing. It gets better.

Jake Trease, senior

matured and grown in the music industry.

“We still look for inspiration but we are finding out who we are now,” Bott said.

While others spent their summer going to sport and activity camps, Streamside spent a majority of their summer recording their first album “Ocean EP.” Junior Hayley Gunsch has a recording studio in the basement of her home that she allowed them to use.

“Gunsch’s dad has been recording his whole life,” Bott said. “She

Connor Cox

Playing in shows is like a high. It’s the best feeling ever.

Connor Cox, senior

told her dad that he needed to recorded us and we spent the whole summer recording.”

Ocean EP includes five tracks entitled “Song of Love”, “DependenSea”, “Like the Waves of the Ocean”, “Until Then” and Where the Ocean Meets the Land”. Of all the songs the band says they enjoy DependenSea the most.

“It’s our heaviest song,” Cox said.

Anybody interested in purchasing this album can buy it from any of the band members or go to iTunes for only \$5.



*Photo courtesy of Tanner Bott
Streamside plays at Derby First Christian every Sunday during their youth group.*



*Photo courtesy of Tanner Bott
Senior Connor Cox, Tanner Bott, Jake Trease and 2009 graduate Josh Alspaw created Streamside in 2004.*



*Photo courtesy of Tanner Bott
As Crooked X, Streamside appeared in the DMS Student Council Talent Show. In their second appearance the band took second overall.*

Many people think of middle school bands to just end right after they write a couple of songs and play in front of their friends. Throughout the six years Streamside has existed they won a local talent show, perform for their church youth group and have now produced a CD. Friendship is their key to success and the reason why they have this group has carried on for so long.

“Because we’re all good friends,” Trease said. “It’s fun for us to get together and play or write music. I

guess it’s the friendship.”

With any group of friends or band members comes a time where there is some sort of disagreement. But where there’s a will, there’s a way. If the group comes upon a disagreement communication is used to resolve the conflict.

“We’ll talk about it and come up with some sort of a compromise but what comes first is what is best for the band,” Bott said. “Not what we think would be fun.”

Streamside has realized it takes more than a couple of guitars and a

set of drums to become a real band. Heart, dedication, commitment and determination are just a few characteristics that are needed to become successful in the music industry.

“You have to be dedicated,” Cox said. “Stick with it, you can’t just get together and say we should make a band.”

In the future, Streamside plans to make many changes including transitioning from lead vocals to more co-vocals and continue with recording.