# THE FULL STORY OF



This document contains all content from Bryan Woolbert's About pages on his website. For the most up-to-date information, visit:

www.bryanwoolbertmusic.com/about

# Contents

Section	Page
Summary	2
Bryan Woolbert – General Biographical Info	3
Bryan Woolbert – The Pianist	8
Bryan Woolbert – The Vocalist	10
Bryan Woolbert - The Songwriter	13
Bryan Woolbert - The Producer	16
Bryan Woolbert – The Live Sound Engineer	20
Quotes in the Words of Bryan Woolbert	22

# **Summary**

Bryan Woolbert is a fully independent pianist, vocalist, songwriter, producer, and live sound engineer from Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. Legally blind from birth, Woolbert uses his Godgiven gifts of perfect pitch and Chromesthesia to comprehend and compose music completely by ear. He has been performing music for more than 15 years in many genres and styles, ranging from classic pop/rock to contemporary, from Christian praise & worship to new age, jazz, soundtrack and much more. Woolbert acquired production knowledge through high school and collegiate studies, as well as through multiple DAW certification training programs. Today, Woolbert produces many of his own songs at his home studio. He aspires to forge a career in music performance and audio engineering with a vision to bring positive change to the music industry through his music compositions, performances, productions, and future technological innovations.







# Bryan Woolbert - General Biographical Info

#### Disclaimer

#### \*Please consider the following before reading the information on this page:\*

- 1. This section contains information about topics such as divorce, depression, bullying, and others that may be sensitive to certain individuals.
- 2. This section consists of all of the nonmusical biographical information about Woolbert and thus only covers a small amount of information about his music career. For more detailed music-related information, please visit the other sections.

### Birth & Visual Impairment

Bryan Woolbert was born at 4:44 PM on October 27th, 1998 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He was born with an extremely rare genetic eye condition known as microphthalmia cataract syndrome. According to doctors at that time, there were only 22 known cases of this condition in the world, of which he and his mother accounted for 2. Due to his eye condition, Woolbert is a legally blind person. In Woolbert's particular case, his visual capability can best be compared to a sighted person's as follows: he can see out of (approximately) the bottom left quadrant of his left eye and only an extremely small spot in his right eye (to the point that it is not usable). Woolbert wears prescription glasses with extremely high magnification (around 20x) which slightly improve his visual capacity but not enough for him to be able to drive a motor vehicle.

### Hometown

Woolbert and his family lived in Middlesex County, New Jersey until they moved to Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey when he was 6 years old. At age 10, Woolbert's father left his family (more on this to follow). Woolbert, his younger sister, his mother, and his grandparents subsequently moved into a home on the other side of town. The family still resides in that house located in Egg Harbor Township today.

#### Childhood

During his childhood, Woolbert participated in a vast majority of normal activities with his peers. At a very early age, he developed a passion for cars. Despite his inability to drive a vehicle, Woolbert discovered that his vision was sufficient enough to ride a bicycle at age 5. Shortly after learning to ride, he learned how to swim. By age 7, young Woolbert was jumping into the deep end of the family's 6-foot deep pool without assistance. He also enjoyed jumping on a trampoline, diving into the waves at the beach, boogieboarding, and using a swing set with his friends.

### Gaming

At age 8, Woolbert discovered that his vision was adequate enough to play video games. His first gaming device was a Nintendo Gameboy Advance SP. He only played a couple of games on it before he received a Nintendo DS Lite with the infamous Mario Kart DS. While his sister was taking figure skating lessons at Young's Skating Center, young Woolbert would practice every track in the game and compete in races and battles with his friends. Woolbert also played several games on a Nintendo Gamecube, including multiple Need for Speed games, Animal Crossing, and others. As much as he enjoyed racing in the games, Woolbert loved to spend hours customizing cars to his complete satisfaction. He also enjoyed dozens of hours designing homes within The Sims 2 Pets game. Little did he know at the time that this would serve as a precursor to his future love of Minecraft. During his preteen and teenage years, Woolbert, his sister, and friends enjoyed playing many games on a Nintendo Wii. Among his favorites were Mario Kart Wii, Super Mario Galaxy 2, New Super Mario Bros. Wii, and Wii Sports Resort. Woolbert has also played hundreds of popular games for iOS over the years. Woolbert began playing Minecraft: Java Edition during version 1.5.2 and actively continues to play both vanilla and modded versions of the game during his spare time today. Woolbert has also been playing Magic: the Gathering since Magic 2015. He was an active participant in Friday Night Magic draft events for a period of time at Nerdvana Games & Comics before he formed a Commander playgroup with a few friends which he hosted at his home. The playgroup broke up shortly after Woolbert graduated from high school. He actively plays MTG Arena during his spare time today. Feel free to contact Bryan Woolbert if you are 18 years of age or older and would like to play either Minecraft or Arena online with him or if you are interested in having him join your Commander playgroup.

### **Educational Background**

Woolbert attended Kids Corner Cooperative Nursery School (which is no longer in operation) before taking kindergarten at Mill Lake Elementary School in Monroe Township, New Jersey. The family then moved to Egg Harbor Township where Woolbert attended Slaybaugh Elementary School from grades 1-3. He then attended the Dr. Joyanne D. Miller School during grades 4 and 5 before going to Alder Avenue Middle School from grades 6-8. Woolbert attended CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts from 2013-2017. He was an Instrumental Major who also doubled as a Vocal Major for his senior year. He then studied as a Worship & Music major at Cairn University from the Fall 2017 semester through the Spring 2019 semester. Woolbert made a transfer to Rowan University in time for the fall 2019 semester where he became a Music Industry: Technology major. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry: Technology in May of 2022.

From elementary school through college, Woolbert took his academics seriously and always strived for excellence. He earned Merit Roll and Honor Roll throughout his elementary education and was later inducted into the National Junior Honors Society at the end of 8th grade. Woolbert maintained an iron-strong academic record through high school and graduated as salutatorian in 2017. His academic success continued through college until he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Rowan University in 2022. In third grade, young Woolbert made the decision to complete his work going forward by using computers and technology rather than by learning to read braille. Woolbert discovered at a young age that he not only possesses Chromesthesia; he also has Grapheme-color Synesthesia (he perceives slight tints of color for each respective character [letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and other symbols] while reading). Due to this condition, it is generally easier for Woolbert to read light text on a dark background rather than the opposite as it is much easier to perceive the tints that distinguish each character. An example of the colors that Woolbert perceives while reading text can be seen in the graphic on the next page:

# Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

 $1234567890, .?!:; + -x \div = / #$ \$

So, what do you think about the way I read and write each and every day?

#### Parents & Unitarian Universalism

Woolbert's mother was born visually impaired but tragically lost all of her vision after an eye surgery when she was 18 years old. She most recently worked as a rehabilitation teacher for The New Jersey Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired until she retired in 2023. Her 18 years of service changed hundreds of blind and visually impaired people's lives (including her son's) throughout southern New Jersey. Woolbert's father owns a successful computer programming business called Phoenix Consultants Group. He also followed in the Woolbert family line of carpenters and has completed many beautiful woodworks for family and business clients alike. Though he has tried to coax young Woolbert into the field by bringing him into his wood shop to work on a couple of projects, the art never really peaked Woolbert's interest. At the same time, his mother has encouraged him to consider working in the field of accessible technologies for the blind and visually impaired, but he was never enthusiastic about that concept either. Woolbert's visual impairment, Chromesthesia, and Grapheme-color Synesthesia were genetically passed down to him from his mother. His perfect pitch, spontaneous ability to improvise harmony, and natural knack for technology were genetically transmitted to him from his father. Woolbert's father has also given him considerable amounts of technical computer knowledge over the years. Given that traits that he was born with and his undeniable passion for the art, Woolbert firmly believes that God has designed him to make music while using advanced modern technologies in the process.

Near Woolbert's 10th birthday, his father broke the news to him that he would be transitioning into a woman and that he would be moving out of the family's home. This devastated young Woolbert. Within a few weeks, his father moved into an off-season rental in Ocean City, New Jersey and began dressing in women's clothing as he attended the <u>Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield</u>. Several months later, young Woolbert and his sister began to visit their father (who they would call "Naunny" going forward) every other weekend at his new home in Princeton, New Jersey. When he was home with his mother, Woolbert attended <u>Mission Point Kids 2</u> at <u>Mission Point Church</u> on Sunday mornings. When he was at his father's house on the alternate weekends, he was made to attend the <u>Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton</u>. It was here that Woolbert was forced to take an intense sexual education class over the course of a few months. He was forced to read and view graphic images within the book <u>"It's Perfectly Normal"</u>. His worst experience occurred when a female student approached him during class in a sexually seductive manner while students were laying on the floor in a dark room. Due to his lack of maturity at the time, young Woolbert was terrified. He suppressed the emotions of this experience as he was afraid of his family's response. It also shattered his confidence when talking to girls until he gradually rebuilt it during high school.

Please do not print this document in black & white. Only print in color. Thank you.

This document was created by Bryan Woolbert on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Updated: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Publication and/or selling of this document, in any part or in whole, without Bryan Woolbert's exclusive consent is strictly prohibited.

Around this same time, Woolbert's father had a gender reaffirming surgery and physically changed into a woman. In September of 2011, Woolbert's parents were officially divorced and his mother was given full custody of both children. When Woolbert was asked questions pertaining to how he felt about his father's decision to transition into a woman by a therapist, his honest answers were recorded in writing and sent to his father via email. Young Woolbert was then severely berated by his father when he arrived at his Princeton home later that same day. Despite the fact that he has secretly suffered through periods of depression at times, Woolbert has refused to see a therapist ever since due to this breach of confidentiality. Woolbert and his sister gradually began to visit their father less and less frequently over time. Once they entered college, visitation became scarce as they focused on their respective studies. They see their father at a home in Northfield, New Jersey only on a rare occasion today.

### Christian Youth Group & Camp Experiences

During the summer of 2006, Woolbert stayed at The Hellen Diller Vacation Home for the Blind for the first time (he would attend this camp annually until age 15). From grades 6-8, Woolbert became part of Oneighty Student Ministry at Mission Point Church. He participated in several of the youth group's events and began learning about the Bible. At age 12, Woolbert accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior on a car ride home with his youth pastor. Although he was shy due to his family situation and picky eating habits, Woolbert was able to bond with other students and occasionally even form a friendship. He continued to attend the youth group during high school and led worship before a few sermons. Woolbert also went with the group on two trips to camps hosted by LIFT Ministries that were held at Cairn University. These incredible experiences greatly strengthened Woolbert's faith in God. On one evening, Woolbert was given the opportunity to play and sing his original worship song "Sin's Ender" before the entire Lift Camp (which consisted of nearly 500 people). He also got to meet one of Cedarville University's traveling worship bands from "HEARTSONG". Shortly before Woolbert graduated high school a couple of years later, his grandparents drove him out to Cedarville University where he attended their Worship Camp and was mentored by HEARTSONG members. When he returned home after this wonderful experience, Woolbert served as a keyboard player on Mission Point Church's Sunday morning worship team a few times before hie was replaced by another keyboardist.

# Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying During High School

Woolbert was harassed, intimidated, and bullied frequently during high school. Other students often cursed him out about his faith in God, his political views (which he now only shares with those whom he trusts), his musical style, and more. Students discriminated against his visual impairment on a couple of rare occasions. In one incident, a student attempted to shoot a laser pointer in Woolbert's left eye. During music classes, students often harassed Woolbert about his <u>perfect pitch</u> and <u>Chromesthesia</u> by intentionally playing dissonant and out-of-tune <u>intervals</u> on their instruments. In another incident, a student created a fake Facebook profile in Woolbert's name and used it to curse at the school. Some teachers openly criticized Woolbert about his political views and musical style during classes. Woolbert was also rejected by multiple girls during high school which undermined the small amount of romantic confidence that he had developed. Though he acquired substantial amounts of valuable knowledge from his senior high education, Woolbert endured a dreadful experience in doing so.

### Travel Experience & Concert Attendance

Since he was a child, Woolbert's grandparents have taken him on annual trips to their home on the Eastern Shore of Virginia during the summer. These vacations have given Woolbert appreciable amounts of creative inspiration for <u>songwriting</u> and much more thanks to the area's serene natural beauty. Photos from some of these trips can be seen on Woolbert's <u>Instagram</u> and elsewhere. It was also here that where Woolbert recorded a <u>music video</u> about a <u>dream</u> that he had involving "The Girl of his Future" (Woolbert's future wife).

Back in 2009, Woolbert's uncle took him to see <u>Billy Joel</u> and <u>Elton John</u>'s <u>Face to Face</u> concert in Philadelphia. In the summer of 2014, Woolbert, his family and some close friends took a week-long trip to <u>Walt Disney World</u>. On one evening, the group got to sit in front-row seats at <u>The American Idol Experience</u>. After the show, Woolbert accidentally exited through a rear side door and met none other than <u>Fantasia</u>. During August of 2016, a friend took Woolbert to see <u>Unspoken</u> in <u>concert</u> at Coastal Christian Church (now called <u>Landmark Church</u>). During August of 2021, Woolbert's grandfather surprised him by driving him to Nashville, Tennessee. On the way there, they stopped at <u>The Natural Bridge State Park</u>. The next evening, Woolbert had the great pleasure of seeing <u>The Isaacs</u> in concert at <u>The Grand Ole' Opry</u>.

#### Conclusion

Throughout his many life experiences thus far, Woolbert has gained tremendous amounts of knowledge, witnessed emotions ranging from great joy to brutal pain, and undergone significant changes that have transformed him into the <u>pianist</u>, <u>vocalist</u>, <u>songwriter</u>, <u>producer</u>, and <u>live sound engineer</u> that he is today.

#### **Quick Links**

Click the link below for links to Bryan Woolbert's music, booking pages, boardwalk info, contact info, social media, & more!

Quick Links

# Bryan Woolbert - The Pianist

### Early Childhood

At a very young age, Bryan Woolbert would spend time playing around with the multitude of instruments and sounds in a <u>Casio</u> synthesizer keyboard that had been left in the living room by his parents. In December of 2005, Woolbert's grandmother purchasd a Story & Clark baby grand piano from <u>Pleasantville Music Shoppe</u> as a late Christmas gift for his mother. However, young Woolbert simply could not resist experimenting with the instrument and listening to the beautiful sounds that it produced. Lo and behold, on February 14th, 2006, Woolbert began classical instruction with local piano virtusos Loretta Mento at age 7. As the two worked harmoniously together, the piano inevitably became his. This very piano can be seen in many of Woolbert's photos today.

# The Chromesthetic Method of Learning Music

Woolbert would learn music by listening to and mimicking individual lines that the instructor would play using <u>perfect</u> <u>pitch</u> and <u>Chromesthesia</u>. He would then memorize these lines as chromesthetic color patterns. Gradually, he would mentally piece together these patterns to memorize a whole song. Woolbert has become far more efficient at doing it over the years and can typically learn new songs on his own. Thus, he still employs this same Chromesthetic Method to learn and add new music to his set lists today. Although he did learn how to read music during his collegiate studies, <u>sight-reading</u> (or reading music while playing it at the same time in order to learn it) was always extremely difficult for Woolbert due to his <u>visual impairment</u>. That said, next time you see Woolbert playing piano, know that it is all being performed completely by ear and memory.

# Musical Style & Early Performances

Over the course of the next few years, Woolbert grew increasingly frustrated with the inability to express his own creative musical ideas while performing classical music by traditional composers. As he frequently listened to music that his parents give him on his <u>iPod Nano (First Generation)</u>, Woolbert began to learn classic pop/rock tunes by artists like <u>Billy Joel</u> and <u>Elton John</u>. It was around this time when he began performing for <u>The Lions Clubs of New Jersey</u> on behalf of <u>The Music Association for Visually Impaired Students of New Jersey (MAVIS)</u>. Woolbert would go on to perform at many of their events throughout the state, including two performances on the grand piano located on the 6th floor of <u>Bally's Casino Resort in Atlantic City</u> during New Jersey Lions State Conventions (check out the photo on the <u>Homepage</u>). Woolbert began attending <u>Mission Point Church</u> during 4th grade and subsequently started learning Christian praise & worship music. Soon after that, Woolbert gained some ragtime piano techniques from local pianist Alan Fisher. By 8th grade, he served as the student accompanist for the <u>Alder Avenue Middle School</u> choir.

### CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts

From 2013-2017, Woolbert attended CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts. As an Instrumental Major, he learned the fundamentals of music theory and performed in bands of students at required school showcases. These public performances consisted of several different genres of music and were graded by instructors as part of the student's GPA. In tune with his music theory studies, Woolbert also began learning jazz standards by composers such as Charlie Parker and Morgan Lewis. In the summer of 2016, he began performing as a freelance musician on the Ocean City, New Jersey Boardwalk. He also competed and won awards in local talent competitions like Ocean City's Got Talent. Woolbert briefly worked with local piano instructor Rick Dekarski prior to graduation in preparation for his college entrance audition. Finally, Woolbert received a New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts Education before graduating as salutatorian in 2017 (check out the video of his graduation performance of his original song "Let Her Name Ring").

### Cairn University

From the fall of 2017 through the spring of 2019, Woolbert studied Worship & Music at Cairn University. He acquired knowledge in both the classical and jazz sides of music theory. His piano instructor Graeme Burgan taught him several new jazz techniques and drastically improved Woolbert's performance posture by helping him to reduce the amount of tension in his shoulders while playing. Woolbert also performed in the university's jazz ensmelbe during this time and improved upon his improvisational style.

# Rowan University & The 2022 NAMM Show

Woolbert then made a transfer to Rowan University in time for the fall 2019 semester where he became a Music Industry: Technology major. As such, he acquired considerable amounts of knowledge about the live sector, music marketing, and much more pertaining to the modern music business. This information has helped Woolbert to develop his own brand and to market his music. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry: Technology in May of 2022. Shortly after graduating, Woolbert attended the 2022 NAMM Show in Anaheim, CA where he performed at the Pearl River Piano booth.

## Today

All in all, Woolbert has performed piano at dozens of venues throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania over the course of more than 15 years. He has also been recorded playing piano (and other instruments by using a MIDI keyboard) on many tracks (check out Bryan Woolbert's music releases). Today, Bryan Woolbert's piano playing can be heard live on the Ocean City, NJ Boardwalk during the summer, at Firewaters Saloon located in the downstairs Marketplace section of Tropicana Atlantic City, and perhaps at your venue or next event!

Want Bryan Woolbert to play piano at your venue or next event? Book Now

Get notified about Bryan Woolbert's next piano performance! Official Fan Club

Please do not print this document in black & white. Only print in color. Thank you.

This document was created by Bryan Woolbert on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Updated: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Publication and/or selling of this document, in any part or in whole, without Bryan Woolbert's exclusive consent is strictly prohibited.

# Bryan Woolbert - The Vocalist

### Early Childhood & Chromesthesia

From as early as age 4, Bryan Woolbert loved singing. At his preschool concert, Woolbert reportedly sang the entire show before it ever started. Despite his teachers' attempts to hush him, young Woolbert performed every song perfectly in tune (thanks to perfect pitch) and without missing a beat. He had no prior individualized vocal coaching. Instead, he preferred playing children's music CDs and singing along with them at home using a professional karaoke speaker that his parents had purchased. Above all, Woolbert fell in love with the involuntary sensations of color caused by Chromesthesia that he could both experience and participate in. On his 7th birthday, Woolbert gained the ability to experience the colors at will as his parents gave him an iPod Nano (First Generation) and corresponding speaker dock. As he routinely listened to the music that they periodically added to his iTunes library in a dark bedroom at night with no distractions, Woolbert would improvise harmony lines and sing them alongside the lead vocalist(s) in the tracks. He also greatly admired the portability of the earbuds that came with it which allowed Woolbert to carry his iPod in his pocket and listen to music wherever he went.

### Musical Style & Middle School Choir

As Woolbert began performing classic pop/rock music by artists like <u>Billy Joel</u> and <u>Elton John</u> at events for <u>The Lions Clubs of New Jersey</u> on behalf of <u>The Music Association for Visually Impaired Students of New Jersey (MAVIS)</u>, he accompanied his piano playing with corresponding lead vocals. He then began attending <u>Mission Point Church</u> during 4th grade and almost immediately fell in love with Christian praise & worship music. While he could not see well enough to read the lyrics that were on the screen at the time, Woolbert would learn them along with the melody of a given song by listening to his peers singing all around him. By 7th grade, Woolbert joined the <u>Alder Avenue Middle School</u> choir. At first, Woolbert's rather high vocal range prompted the choir director to place him within the alto section. However, his voice matured and deepened by around January of that school year. He was subsequently moved to the tenor section.

# CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts & Karaoke

From 2013-2017, Woolbert attended CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts. As an Instrumental Major, he would occasionally sing lead vocals with bands of students during required school showcases. During his junior year, Woolbert would finally take formal vocal lessons from none other than the legendary vocal coach Sal Dupree. He taught Woolbert how to properly project using a natural chest voice, along with many other quintessential classical and pop vocal techniques that have transformed him into the lead singer that he is today. Soon after acquiring these new vocal skills, he began taking the stage as a karaoke singer at local venues, most notably at Clancy's by the Bay with Dupree's colleague Lori Kelley (which closed in 2022 and is now Mexiquila). Woolbert decided to double as a Vocal Major during his senior year at CharterTech. In essence, he joined the high school choir, went on multiple Vocal Major-only trips to renowned music venues in Philadelphia, and performed in required school showcases. Like their Instrumental counterparts, these public performances consisted of several different genres of music and were graded by instructors as part of the student's GPA. Woolbert received a New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts Education before graduating as salutatorian in 2017 (check out the video of his graduation performance of his original song "Let Her Name Ring").

Directly after the graduation ceremony, Woolbert and his family went to celebrate at Applebees Grill+Bar in Mays Landing where he sang in a karaoke competition and won the top prize for that night.

# Studio Experience & Harmony Improvisation

During his time in high school, Dupree introduced Woolbert to expert producer <u>Kit Worton</u> who engineered the <u>first professional recordings</u> containing Woolbert's vocals. While in the studio, Worton taught him several crucial vocal techniques pertaining to audio production. Simultaneously, Woolbert demonstrated his natural ability to improvise harmony lines on the spot. When Worton discovered this, he passionately worked with Woolbert to develop the characteristic wall of harmonies that can be heard on many of his vocal tracks today.

# Cairn University & The Gospel Choir

From the fall of 2017 through the spring of 2019, Woolbert studied Worship & Music at Cairn University. During his first semester, Woolbert studied classical voice with Elizabeth Sutton who encouraged him to explore and express the rich colors in the lower baritone regions of his vocal range. After that, he auditioned and successfully made it into the university's gospel choir. Unlike the strict nature of the traditional choir that he sang in at CharterTech, the gospel choir gave him occasional opportunities to use his natural gift of improvising harmonic lines on the spot so long as they blended in well with the music. Soon after, the choir director Ruth Naomi Floyd became Woolbert's private vocal teacher at the university and added several jazz vocal techniques to his palette.

# Rowan University & Planet Rose Tropicana Atlantic City

Woolbert then made a transfer to Rowan University in time for the fall 2019 semester where he became a Music Industry: Technology major. As such, he acquired considerable amounts of knowledge about the live sector, music marketing, and much more pertaining to the modern music business. This information has helped Woolbert to develop his own brand and to market his music. During this time, Woolbert started singing karaoke at Planet Rose Tropicana Atlantic City. He has won multiple awards at the venue, including the Owner's Award. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Rowan with a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry: Technology in May of 2022.

# Today

n summary, Woolbert has sang both lead and harmony vocals at dozens of venues throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania over the course of more than 15 years. He has also been recorded singing on many tracks (check out <u>Bryan Woolbert's music releases</u>). Today, Bryan Woolbert's vocals can be heard live <u>on the Ocean City, NJ Boardwalk</u> during the summer, at <u>Firewaters Saloon</u> located in the downstairs Marketplace section of <u>Tropicana Atlantic City</u>, at local karaoke venues such as <u>Planet Rose Tropicana Atlantic City</u>, and perhaps at your venue or next event!

Want Bryan Woolbert to perform vocals at your venue or next event? Book Now

Get notified about when and where Bryan Woolbert is singing next! Official Fan Club

# Bryan Woolbert – The Songwriter

#### Disclaimer

#### \*Please consider the following before reading the information in this section:\*

- 1. This section contains information about topics such as depression, bullying, and others that may be sensitive to certain individuals.
- 2. Some of Woolbert's original songs that are mentioned in this section have not yet been produced and <u>released</u> to the public. Woolbert has set a goal to produce and release as many of his original compositions as he can during his lifetime. However, music production is a time consuming yet beautiful and artistic process. Please be patient.
- 3. Like many composers, Bryan Woolbert takes his songwriting very personally. Please 'don't judge'.
- -Thanks and enjoy!

# "Rushing Waterfalls" & The Chromesthetic Method

Bryan Woolbert composed his first song entitled "Rushing Waterfalls" at age 8. The composition was inspired by a dream that Woolbert had of a brightly sunlit group of waterfalls in the middle of a forest that rose and fell in varying patterns during early autumn. He implemented the gift of <a href="Chromesthesia">Chromesthesia</a> to write the melody and chords of the song by comparing the colors he saw in the vision to their closest chromesthetic equivalents in his mind. This capability that Woolbert possesses to translate dreams, sets of emotions, and other life experiences into his native musical language of colors allows him to write music in a completely natural manner. This Chromesthetic Method is still the way in which he writes music today. At the time, Woolbert considered his compositional style to be classical in line with his piano instruction. However, he would later realize that his first songs were actually new age pieces based on their musical structures and inspirations derived from nature. Little did young Woolbert know that "Rushing Waterfalls" would serve as a prelude to many more visions, emotions, and life events that would ignite his musical creativity in years to follow.

# The Gap of Silence & First Worship Song

During his preteen years, Woolbert's father <u>left his family</u> and soon after transitioned into a transgender woman. This change caused significant impacts on young Woolbert who subsequently stopped writing music for a period of time during grades 5 through 7. However, his faith in God was growing as he attended <u>Mission Point Church</u>. At age 14, Woolbert wrote his first worship song "Sin's Ender" (which would later be released as a <u>single</u> and remastered for his <u>"You Are with Me" EP</u>). Woolbert's first set of original lyrics expressed a confession of sin along with a full surrender of his heart to The Lord.

### CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts

From 2013-2017, Woolbert attended CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts. During this time, he composed nearly a dozen songs in multiple genres, including Christian praise & worship, pop/rock, new age, and even a country/western tune as part of a history class assignment based on Westward Expansion. Woolbert was bullied considerably by many students and even some teachers during high school (he can be heard singing about "the things they used to say" in his top original song "Overcome"). By his junior year, the harassment had become so severe that he would spend as much time as he could isolated within a studio booth during instrumental music classes. However, this soundproofed environment unlocked some golden opportunities for Woolbert to be alone and work diligently on his original music using the production technologies that were at his disposal. It was around this time when he began implementing more advanced harmonic progressions within his compositions thanks to the music theory knowledge that he had acquired. Throughout the course of his senior year, Woolbert began to feel the emotional pain of rejection as multiple girls turned him down for reasons unknown to him. This prompted him to write "Let Her Name Ring" which he later performed at his graduation ceremony.

# "Sounds of Nature" & Studio Experience

In the spring and summer of 2017, Woolbert experienced several incredible visions of romance within nature which inspired him to compose and produce his "Sounds of Nature: Songs from Dreams & Inspirations" EP. Many of these dreams revolved around "the girl of his future" (or Woolbert's future wife). A notable exception on the EP is his song "River of Tears." The combination of harassment, rejection, and academic stress near the end of his high school studies caused Woolbert to suffer through a brief period of serious depression. During this time, he encountered a dreary vision of riding alone in a small wooden boat on a dark, dirty river in the middle of the night. The combination of this dream and depression served as the manuscript that Woolbert chromesthetically translated into music. As Woolbert gained audio production knowledge through his own studio sessions and those with expert producer Kit Worton, he began composing music with the recording, editing, mixing, and mastering processes in mind. As the two spent dozens of hours on Woolbert's "You Are with Me" EP, he demonstrated his natural ability to improvise harmony lines on the spot. When Worton discovered this, he passionately worked with Woolbert to develop the characteristic wall of harmonies that can be heard on many of Woolbert's vocal tracks today.

# Cairn University - Jazz & "Sounds of Nature 2"

From the fall of 2017 through the spring of 2019, Woolbert studied Worship & Music at Cairn University. As he studied classical and jazz music theory, he became increasingly frustrated with the strict compositional limitations imposed by both genres. Additionally, Woolbert strongly preferred composing music by memorizing it within his native chromesthetic language after learning about scoring musical notation. It was during this phase that Woolbert took it upon himself to begin writing his own jazz pieces. He would employ The Chromesthetic Method to translate complex sets of emotions that he was feeling into intricate harmonic progressions which he supported with jazz rhythms. Woolbert also took several Bible courses at Cairn that helped him to compose praise & worship lyrics with proper biblical context. This greatly influenced the lyrics of some of his later compositions on his "You Are with Me" EP. Meanwhile, he was also quietly composing much of the new age music from his "Sounds of Nature 2: Songs from Dreams & Inspirations" EP based on more visions and experiences that he had pertaining to nature. While he was on a trip to his grandparents' home in Virginia during the summer of 2019, Woolbert had a dream about his future wife. It was this amazing encounter that prompted him to compose "Glimpses in the Sunset" and later direct a music video that brought the story to life.

Please do not print this document in black & white. Only print in color. Thank you.

This document was created by Bryan Woolbert on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Updated: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Publication and/or selling of this document, in any part or in whole, without Bryan Woolbert's exclusive consent is strictly prohibited.

# Rowan University & "I Just Can't Get over You"

Woolbert then made a transfer to Rowan University in time for the fall 2019 semester where he became a Music Industry: Technology major. As he studied music production in-depth, Woolbert's compositional techniques improved even more with regard to the recording, editing, mixing, and mastering processes. Prior to releasing it as a single, he composed and produced "I Just Can't Get over You" as a graded collegiate project. The assignment required Woolbert to make use of electronic drums and samples within Apple's Logic Pro for macOS. Thus, he chromesthetically translated his emotions following a series of visions about his future wife into a song with a modern pop flare. While this drastically deviated from his preferred style and sound, it proved that Woolbert can compose music in nearly any genre.

### The Lack of Copyright Blunder

Despite the business acumen that Woolbert had built from his studies at Rowan, he made a critical mistake by performing an original song at a gig in 2023 that he had not yet copyrighted. A patron unintentionally stole the rights to the composition by publishing a video of this performance to the Internet. In order to avoid the potential legal hassle and emotional stress involved in fighting the situation, Woolbert decided to scrap the song altogether. Woolbert takes pride in his songwriting and holds the mentality that he will write many greater songs in the future. However, he will no longer publicly perform original music that he has not yet officially released in order to protect the rights to his compositions.

# **Today**

To date, Woolbert has composed nearly 50 songs across multiple music genres. Several of these can be heard on popular music streaming platforms including <u>Apple Music</u>, <u>Spotify</u>, <u>TIDAL</u>, <u>Amazon Music</u>, <u>Deezer</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, and others worldwide. As he continues to transform that which inspires him most into the beautiful art form of music, Woolbert aims to captivate his listeners and bring glory to God in the process.

Check out Bryan Woolbert's original music! Music Releases

Get notified when Bryan Woolbert drops a new song! Official Fan Club

# Bryan Woolbert - The Producer

### Experimenting with GarageBand for iPad

Bryan Woolbert began learning about audio and music production during his time at <a href="CharterTech High School for the">CharterTech High School for the</a>
<a href="Performing Arts">Performing Arts</a>. Before he was introduced to <a href="AVID® Pro Tools">AVID® Pro Tools</a>
in his instrumental music classes, Woolbert experimented with and learned how to use <a href="GarageBand for iPad">GarageBand for iPad</a>
on his own. When he realized the technological power of layering software instrument tracks in a manner that was easy for him to execute on a touchscreen that he could look at up close, he began striving to overcome his initial fears that he would be limited in the music production world by his <a href="wisual impairment">visual impairment</a>.

#### "Sounds of Nature" Production Process

Within a couple years, Woolbert would use GarageBand on his iPad Pro (first generation) in conjunction with some external audio apps, a Casio Privia PX-330 connected to a bluetooth MIDI interface, and free nature samples from Freesound.org to record and edit his "Sounds of Nature: Songs from Dreams & Inspirations" EP (which would later be mixed and mastered by expert producer Kit Worton before being released in 2018). Given that GarageBand did not yet support Audio Units at the time, Woolbert was unable to edit the MIDI notes of any track that contained an external software instrument (outside of GarageBand). Furthermore, he had to compensate for small amounts of latency that came from the bluetooth interface by playing notes a little early. Thus, much of the music that can be heard on the EP is exactly the way that Woolbert originally played it with little to no editing.

### Obtaining the Pro Tools User Certification

During his junior year of high school, Woolbert took Pro Tools 101 with the Grammy-nominated engineer and musician Lew London during his instrumental music class. London kindly devoted considerable amounts of individual attention to Woolbert during training. The two discovered that Woolbert could in fact operate Pro Tools effectively with the small amount of vision that he has by using the Scroll to Zoom feature on macOS to smoothly magnify the software as necessary. He successfully passed the Pro Tools 101 Exam and proceeded to study Pro Tools 110 with London in his senior year. Woolbert also chose to take an honors level precalculus course during that year which provided a crucial foundation for the physics of sine waves (and thus sound waves). He simultaneously took a physics fundamentals course which gave him insight into electromagnetic waves, the basics of electrical circuits, and several other topics that are relevant to the functionality of audio production technologies. Shortly before graduating as salutatorian, Woolbert passed the Pro Tools 110 Exam and earned the AVID® Pro Tools: User certification for Version 12 (view the official listing on AVID's website by typing in "Bryan Woolbert" here). It is also worth noting that Woolbert gained some studio experience while playing piano on some sessions with bands of other Instrumental majors at CharterTech. He also spent considerable amounts of time alone in soundproofed studio booths during instrumental music classes using both GarageBand and Pro Tools to work on his original music.

# Real-World Studio Experience at Right Touch Studios

During the summer of 2016, Woolbert's vocal coach <u>Sal Dupree</u> introduced him to expert producer <u>Kit Worton</u> after hearing a rough track of his original song "Sin's Ender" that Woolbert had made with GarageBand. During his many studio sessions with Worton in the years that followed, Woolbert gained bounds of real-world professional studio experience and knowledge. From the small details such as executing proper vocal technique when singing into condenser microphones to understanding the full process for producing and releasing a record, Worton fondly mentored Woolbert at every possible opportunity while producing his original music (especially while working on the <u>"You Are with Me" EP</u>). He also gave Woolbert his first look at Apple's <u>Logic Pro for macOS</u>. Finally, Worton introduced him to his primary publisher <u>CDBaby</u>, his PRO <u>ASCAP</u>, and the <u>U.S. Electronic Copyright Office (ECO)</u>.

### Woolbert's First Pro Tools System & Cairn University

After the success of his high school graduation, Woolbert's family rewarded him with a 2017 15-inch MacBook Pro (his very first Mac computer), a Korg Kronos, a Blue Microphones Baby Bottle, a pair of Samson Resolv SE6 studio monitors, and a perpetual license for Pro Tools Standard (which is now only offered as a subscription and is called Pro Tools Studio). With the Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 (2nd Generation) audio interface bundle that he had purchased at the center, Woolbert now had a fully functional Pro Tools system of his own. During his studies as a Worship & Music major at Cairn University between the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2019, he occasionally used this system in his dorm room to create what would later become concept tracks for a couple of the songs on his "Sounds of Nature 2: Songs from Dreams & Inspirations" EP. Although he acquired considerable knowledge about music theory and The Bible, several crucial piano and vocal performance techniques, and real-world experience while working as a contracted live sound engineer during his time at Cairn, Woolbert made the brave decision to transfer out of the university in 2019 due to their lack of a dedicated music production program.

# Rowan University Knowledge & "I Just Can't Get over You"

Technology major. While he did study a few quintessential courses that focused on the music business, the program was primarily geared toward music production. On the hardware front, he learned about many types of microphones, cables (and how to properly wrap them), preamplifiers, speakers, and much more. He studied how various types of compressors, equalizers, reverbs, delays, and other effects function, both from a technological standpoint and within the context of a mix. He also examined the process of analog to digital conversion, the arts of sampling, synthesis, and remixing, and several methods of recording, editing, and mixing. He took a Physics of Sound & Music course which provided extensive knowledge about acoustics, standing waves, and more. On the software side, Woolbert received a proper introduction to Logic Pro for macOS during the Fall 2019 semester which he used to produce his original song "I Just Can't Get over You." At first, he fully produced and submitted the track for a graded assignment.

After the collegiate production, Woolbert took the Logic session over to Kit Worton where he rerecorded the lead vocals on Worton's superior hardware. The two also made a few minor mixing and mastering adjustments before it was released as a single. Soon after that, Woolbert discovered iZotope plugins and learned to use RX Advanced noise reduction software for comprehensive audio cleanup and repair. He then obtained basic knowledge of mastering skills and standards in his Producing the Record course during the Fall 2021 semester.

# Logic Pro X Certification Attempt

During the summer of 2020, Woolbert took (and paid for) the official Logic 101 certification course through Future Media Concepts (FMC) and was instructed by the Emmy-award winning composer David Cottrell. Although he had attained the necessary expertise for the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) along with several additional editing and mixing techniques, Apple permanently discontinued Logic Pro X certification exams during the COVID-19 Pandemic which rendered Woolbert (and many other students) unable to test and obtain the certification.

# Upgrade to Pro Tools Ultimate & Senior Year at Rowan

During the summer of 2021, Woolbert acquired a highly tuned 2020 27-inch iMac and a Pro Tools | Carbon audio interface (which came bundled with a Pro Tools Ultimate perpetual license as part of a limited-time deal at Sweetwater). This new Pro Tools Ultimate system combined with the gear that he already owned empowered Woolbert to record, edit, mix, and master his "Sounds of Nature 2: Songs from Dreams & Inspirations" EP completely on his own over the course of the academic year to follow. He also directed the "Glimpses in the Sunset" music video and released it prior to the EP as part of its marketing campaign. The music video, the EP, and a written marketing plan were submitted together as Woolbert's Capstone Project - a final graduation requirement of the Music Industry: Technology program at Rowan University. Woolbert gained internship experience during the spring of 2022 when he served as the lead audio engineer for a podcast production. This involved composing and producing the intro, outro, and transition pieces, as well as editing, mixing, and mastering all of the audio for the podcast. Finally, Woolbert simultaneously had the opportunity to interview some prominent industry figures in audio archiving and digital storage technologies (most notably including the CEO of Glyph Production Technologies) as part of a research project before graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry: Technology in May of 2022.

### 2022 NAMM Show & Pro Tools Operator of Music Certification

Shortly after graduating, Woolbert attended the 2022 NAMM Show in Anaheim, CA. At the conference, Woolbert gained additional knowledge in acoustics, immersive audio, and the ever increasing role of artificial intelligence within the music industry, just to name a few topics. He also got the opportunity to experiment with some new technologies, including the Warm Audio WA-CX12 Tube Condenser Microphone. Upon singing into it for the first time, he immediately fell in love with its bright, colorful sound. The example that now resides at Woolbert's home studio is his primary microphone of choice for recording his lead and harmony vocals, among other things. A few months later, Woolbert utilized his Pro Tools Ultimate system to take the Pro Tools 201 and Pro Tools 210M courses online with Pro Tools Expert Wilkis Ideology Figuereo through Itec Audio Studios. Once each course was completed, Woolbert successfully passed both the Pro Tools 201 Exam and Pro Tools 210M Exam (respectively) to earn the Pro Tools Operator of Music Certification for Version 2021 (view the official listing on AVID's website by typing in "Bryan Woolbert" here).

# Today

Today, Woolbert uses a combination of Logic Pro for macOS and Pro Tools Ultimate for audio and music production (for a full list of the studio equipment that he uses, you can download a copy of Woolbert's studio gear list from this page). Though he may not be as efficient as a fully sighted engineer, Woolbert is a persistent perfectionist who takes his time to ensure nothing less than excellent sonic quality with every production that he works on. The fact that he has perfect pitch and Chromesthesia gives him a strong edge above the competition within the listening domain when it comes to producing music. Whether he is bringing one of his original songs to fruition or perhaps producing your next record, you can trust that every detail of the production will be considered and addressed to Woolbert's complete satisfaction upon final delivery of the master.

Want Bryan Woolbert to produce your next record? Book Now

Want Bryan Woolbert to be an audio engineer in your studio? Contact

# Bryan Woolbert – The Live Sound Engineer

# "On The Way" Work Experience

Bryan Woolbert was chosen and hired as the Live Sound Engineer for Cairn University's traveling worship band "On The Way" for the Spring 2018 semester. Although he had acquired an AVID® Pro Tools User Certification for Version 12 before graduating as the salutatorian of CharterTech High School for the Performing Arts in 2017, he had no prior experience in the field other than a small amount of knowledge that he had gained from a Technical Light & Sound course during his senior year of high school. Nonetheless, Woolbert traveled with a group of fellow Cairn students (most of whom he had never met before) to winter bible camps located throughout the state of Pennsylvania, into parts of southern New Jersey, and as far north as upstate New York. The team's first event was held at Rock Mountain Bible Camp. Woolbert served as both a lighting engineer and sound engineer for the band as no technician was available on site to run lighting at the time. He successfully operated both the light and sound boards at the same time with no prior training in operating lighting equipment. A few weeks later, the team served at a bible camp at Spruce Lake Retreat Center. The worship sessions were held in a long, narrow room with a very low ceiling. In order to raise his ears above the audience to run sound, Woolbert stood on a plastic-metal chair while clinging to a metal support pole. He frequently bent down to the band's analog sound board to make adjustments before standing on the chair again to hear the changes that he had made. While he could not interpret visual cues from the band on stage due to his visual impairment, Woolbert was able to communicate with the band via text messaging. When the team went to Camp Orchard Hill, Woolbert was thrilled to see his youth pastor and students from Mission Point Church (his home church) while serving as a lighting engineer for the weekend. Woolbert also gained expertise using multiple digital sound boards and effects that were present at a few of the venues that he worked at.

# Rowan University, DANTE Certification, & 2022 NAMM Show

In addition to his work experience, Woolbert acquired considerable knowledge about electronics, sound, and more during his studies as a Music Industry: Technology major at Rowan University. He took multiple courses (including a Sound Reinforcement class) with the renowned Philadelphia-based sound engineer Barbara Adams that covered nearly every technical aspect of the field. Microphones, cables (and how to properly wrap them), preamplifiers, analog and digital consoles, crossovers, power amplifiers, PA speakers, and troubleshooting were all discussed in detail, just to name a few topics. Additionally, he took a Physics of Sound & Music course which provided extensive knowledge about acoustics, standing waves, and more. Woolbert simultaneously acquired the Audinate DANTE™ Level 1 Certification in audio networking. He also studied the structure of the live sector along with several related topics within his Business of Music courses. Woolbert graduated Summa Cum Laude from Rowan with a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry: Technology in May of 2022. Shortly after graduating, Woolbert attended the 2022 NAMM Show in Anaheim, CA where he picked up additional expertise in acoustics, immersive audio, and the ever increasing role of artificial intelligence within the music industry, just to name a few topics.

# Today

Given his experience and knowledge pertaining to the live sound field, Woolbert is equipped to engineer for solo artists and bands alike. Despite the limitations that come with his visual impairment, Woolbert possesses a unique listening advantage thanks to <u>perfect pitch</u> and <u>Chromesthesia</u> which enable him to analyze and adjust a mix in great detail. To have him engineer at your next show, <u>contact Bryan Woolbert</u> for details.

Want Bryan Woolbert to engineer at your venue or show? Send Text | Send Email

# Quotes in the Words of Bryan Woolbert

"A teaspoon of common sense in everyone's coffee would make this nation a much better place."

-Bryan Woolbert

"When you underestimate someone, you slash the very rope that connects them to their dream. When you encourage someone, you give them the strength to keep climbing the rope toward making their dream a reality."

-Bryan Woolbert

"We 'gonna take a break from those vocals and do just a little piano for a while!"

-Bryan Woolbert

"Everyone's definition of the word crazy is a little different."

-Bryan Woolbert

"They say 'Nothing is ever good to extremes...' I would refute that claim with one thing: Love. Genuine love."

-Bryan Woolbert

"Don't give me songwriting rules! Give me musical tools for inspiration!"

-Bryan Woolbert

"There's nothing more professional than putting forth your whole heart into what you're doing."

-Bryan Woolbert

"Your ears are the microphones, your mouth is the amplifier, your mind is the sound board."

-Bryan Woolbert

"The following is a sound check. This is only a test. I repeat: this is only a test."

-Bryan Woolbert

"Encourage someone, change a life, illuminate the future!"

-Bryan Woolbert

### THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING!!!

Please do not print this document in black & white. Only print in color. Thank you. This document was created by Bryan Woolbert on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Updated: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.