

NT alumni and students alike have a passion for music

K Flay and Jordan Xidas take us inside the music industry

by *Melanie Mandell*

With a student body of over 4,000, the halls of New Trier are bound to be filled with a plethora of talents.

Almost every student knows that celebrities such as Rainn Wilson, Bobbi Brown and Pete Wentz attended New Trier, but there are also many aspiring artists who have walked these halls.

K. Flay and Jordan Alec Xidas are two up-and-coming New Trier musicians with two very different approaches to their careers.

Indie rap artist Kristine Flaherty, better known by her stage name K. Flay, graduated New Trier in 2003.

"I always listened to music, went to shows, and all that—but I never thought it was something I'd do professionally."

When asked how her past self would react to her current success, Flaherty said that she wouldn't have believed it.

Pop artist, and senior, Jordan Alec Xidas couldn't be more opposite. When asked the same question

about his passion for music, Xidas said it started when he was young.

"Growing up, my dad was always singing songs he wrote, so singing came pretty naturally," Xidas said. "I actually don't remember a time in my life that I wasn't singing, whether it be with my dad or with the radio."

The two artists both approached school differently, in order to make it fit best into their careers.

"I finished college and got my degree before ever thinking about doing music full time," Flaherty said. "It was a slow decision, one that made itself in a lot of ways. It felt like the circumstances of life kept nudging me toward music, and I didn't really question it."

Since Xidas always knew he wanted to have a career in music, he molds his school schedule to fit with his musical pursuits. To be both a student and a musician Xidas said it takes a good deal of planning and efficiency with school work.

He says a way to think about it is to compare a career in music to being on a sports team.

"Music requires you to be extremely self-motivated," Xidas said. "With a team there is a practice after school, but I really have to carve out the time



Jordan Xidas will release a new single next month, "Break My Heart" | **Glastris**

for songwriting and practicing, and it's all up to me," Xidas said.

One thing both musicians have in common is their use of the Internet to promote their music. Flaherty first released songs for free online and then pressed her own records and mixtapes once she gained more of a following.

Xidas attempted to imitate

Justin Bieber's YouTube success by starting a channel and posting covers of popular songs - his first cover being "Baby" by Justin Bieber

"I have since taken to Facebook and Instagram to post shorter musical installations which I find to be more accessible to my audience," Xidas said.

When looking for inspiration, the two turn to very different artists. K. Flay usually looks to what she's currently reading and listening to.

"At the moment, musically, I'm really into Glass Animals, Bully, Son Lux, Vince Staples, and The Weeknd," Flaherty said.

Xidas said his main influences are his father and pop artists from stations such as Kiss FM and B96.

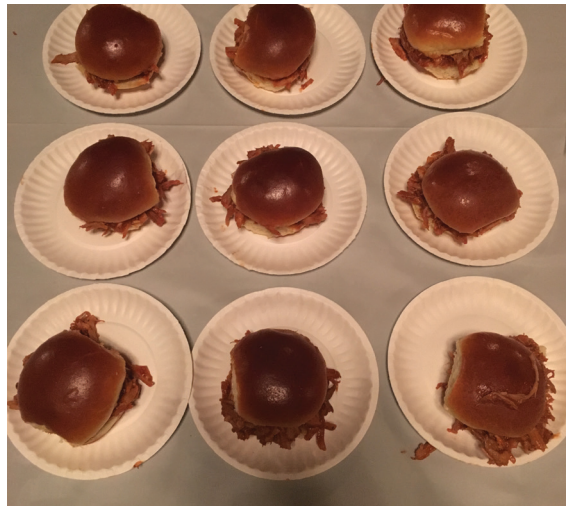
"My absolute favorite artist is a Nashville based songwriter named Steve Moakler," Xidas said. "He is an incredible writer and his music is really authentic with a touch of pop."

Both of these artists are currently in the middle of some exciting projects. K. Flay is currently on tour in the UK and will be back in the US later this year. She has two shows in Chicago, one on Nov. 25, and another on Dec. 3. She plans to return to the studio after the tour ends.

Xidas has a new song coming out later next month called "Break My Heart," and an EP called Run Free available on iTunes.

Be sure to check out these two extremely talented Treverians the next time you're looking for some new music.

Taste of Wilmette serves up a good time



Vendors present at Taste of Wilmette included Gigi's Cupcakes and Backyard Barbeque Shop | **Blickstein**

Local shops gain exposure at Taste of Wilmette event

by *Michael Blickstein*

Wilmette is home to roughly 27,000 residents and for every resident there's a place they can go to get exactly what they want.

Taste of Wilmette is a tiny spectacle of how the town's food world can cater to everyone's tastes.

Wilmette held its twelfth annual Taste of Wilmette on Thursday, Oct. 17 hosting 15 culinary establishments and three local businesses. All establishments involved showcased the products that make them unique and it provided for a very exciting and bustling environment.

The culinary selection was diverse and made for a giant selection of foods to feast on. Valley Lodge and Backyard Barbeque Shop brought pulled pork sandwiches, Nothing Bundt Cakes and Gigi's Cupcakes brought cupcakes and other pastries, Nick's Neighborhood Grill brought bacon wrapped sushi, and the list goes on.

The food brought was delicious, authentic and indicative of what you can expect from a real dining experience. These stores and restaurants

were the best that Wilmette's "culinary district" had to offer.

This event actually does help business. Restaurant employees and owners at the event revealed that this event gives serious exposure and reels in a lot of business.

Business owners feel that this event is an effective way for residents to experience how unique the township's small business offering really are.

"It really is great exposure," Ryan Ulrich of Backyard Barbeque Shop said, "This is a great way for us to interact with customers and it shows the quality of food [our grills] can make"

Besides the fifteen food establishments at the event were three other small businesses and the Raise the Stage Fundraiser. The most visited booth of these was operated by A Center for Oriental Medicine, which came with free acupuncture samples.

Raise the Stage also received a fair amount of interest. The campaign handed out free custom cookies with their logo in frosting and handed out flyers to explain their mission of fundraising for the Hayes-McCausland Black Box Theatre.

One difference about this event from past years is the venue. This year, the event was held at the Kenilworth Club rather than the Wilmette

Women's Club as in past years. This is due to the fire that engulfed and destroyed the building last year.

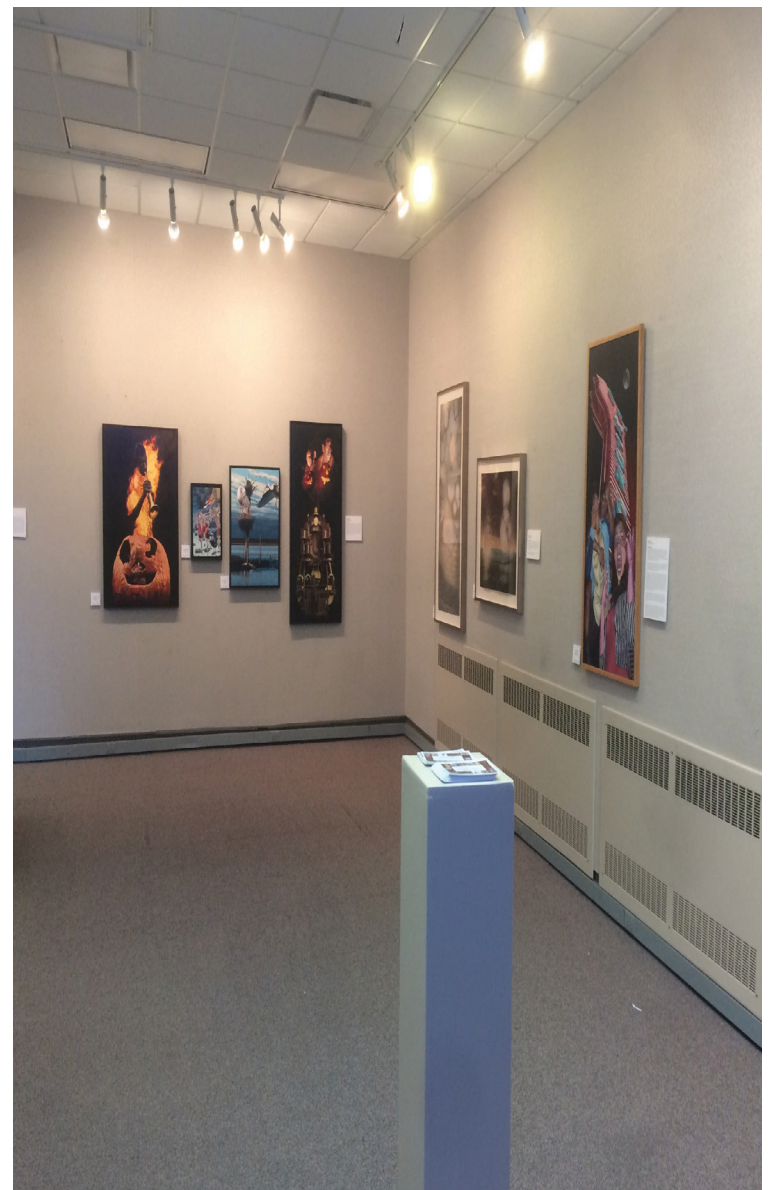
"It's here because of what happened to the Women's Club last year," Dave Zier of Zier's Prime Meats said, "and even though it's a shame what happened to the club, this place does have a better kitchen and is much easier to get to"

About the event, executive director of the Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce Nada Becker said "This event has been around for the past twelve years, we feel that it really highlights how incredible the business is in the township and the people that came still had a great time"

Everyone in attendance didn't seem to think that much about the location and focused much more on the food and interacting with their community.

The general mood of the place was happy and lively and the event was just as big of a hit as it had been in previous years.

"Taste of Wilmette is always amazing exposure for business here and everyone who attends has a great time," Becker said, "Not every town has [something unique like] three butcher shops and we really love to show that off."



New Trier welcomes Ann Nathan satellite exhibit to Brierly Gallery

The exhibit features pieces from 13 professional artists that have other work in the Ann Nathan Gallery located in downtown Chicago.

Nathan has a strong connection to New Trier. A Glencoe resident, she has had either a child or grandchild attending New Trier High School between 1968 and 2014.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to visit the gallery during school hours. The exhibit will be at New Trier from Oct. 12 to Nov. 13.