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# 5 Questions With... Bronze Radio Return



Bronze Radio Return celebrates the release of "Old Time Speaker" at Black-Eyed Sally's on June 19. (Credit: courtesy of BRR)

It's been a whirlwind few years for Bronze Radio Return, with the bluesy rockers with heavy UHart ties graduating from playing for classmates to recording with Doug Derryberry (Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, Bruce Hornsby, Ben Folds Five) to touring regionally and taking home Best Groove Rock Band in last year's Advocate Grand Band Slam.

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Come to think of it, they remind us a lot of the band who had ruled that category for the last decade. As Rane has slowed down its gigging in recent years, BRR has emerged as an exciting, young, hard-working, hard-touring representative of the best that the Hartford area has to offer.

This Friday, BRR celebrates the release of its first full album, "Old Time Speaker," with a [hometown throwdown at Black-Eyed Sally's](#). It's a tight collection of songs riding a long string of heavy grooves tailor-made for summer road-tripping. Definitely worth checking out. Front man Chris Henderson and drummer Rob Griffith teamed up to tackle these 5 Questions.

### Many of you guys are UHart grads, and your first big gig was at Spring Fling. Would BRR have had a future if your classmates had turned on you that day?

That was kind of a defining day for BRR. That certainly was not the easiest show for us. We had to battle all sorts of production nightmares, not to mention that Soulive was going on after us. The show was on a very tight schedule, and we only played two songs. I guess our fans weren't happy about the short set, and cheered us into one more song. We got the go-ahead from Soulive's tour manager and got to rip one more for them. They've always been a very supportive crowd, and have really helped us build a strong fan base in Hartford. If we played bad, the excessive pounding of Keystone Lights would of helped them forget what they saw and hopefully given us another chance.

### What are your favorite spots to play in Connecticut?

Currently, our favorite spot to play is at Black Eyed Sally's. James, Dave and the rest of the crew down there are always great to us. The vibe is very accommodating, and our fans really like it there too. They're working really hard to keep live music going in Hartford. Some other great spots we play occasionally are [Sully's Pub](#) in Hartford and the [Main Pub](#) in Manchester.

### You recorded "Old Time Speaker" down in Nashville. What was the draw there, and how did the setting influence the way the recording came together?

We initially decided we wanted to go somewhere far away from our everyday lives—a place that wouldn't have the regular distractions we deal with. The studio we were at, Dark Horse, was just outside the city in a very secluded place. We actually lived at the studio for a few weeks, which gave us a great opportunity to completely immerse ourselves in this album. Nashville was just down the road for when we needed to get away from the studio. It was also a great central location between us and our producer, Chad Copelin. Chad is from Oklahoma, but has a lot of connections in Nashville. He managed to get some really great recording engineers on the project, including Craig Alvin and Andrew Mendelson. We were fortunate to have such a great team working on this record.

### BRR seems like a band that's really built for the road. How far away from CT do you expect this album to take you?

We certainly spend a lot of time away from home. The band has been touring regionally for the last year and half, at about 100 shows a year. We're hoping that this album can take us further on a national and international level. It would be great to go out West and have people know who we are. Another big aspiration is to play in Europe. The next step for us would be to link up with larger national touring band, and support them across the country.

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Local (CT/Western MA) bands, venues, promoters, publicists, record store owners, DJs – feel free to be in touch with news about upcoming gigs, CD releases, etc. Here's our contact info:

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**You guys are all over Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and now Twitter. What's your social media outlet of choice?**

We try to make use of all of them in different ways. [MySpace](#) is practically our website, and is constantly updated. [Facebook](#) has been a great way to personally interact with our fans and promote shows. We've been getting better about posting videos to YouTube, and are still trying to adapt to the Twitter thing. It can get confusing when trying to manage all these sites at once. We love to hear feedback from our fans and interact with them through these new media outlets.

Bronze Radio Return plays a [CD release party for "Old Time Speaker" at Black-Eyed Sally's](#) on Friday, June 19. Dan Mills opens the show.

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