



COURTESY PHOTO

Dirty Joke's Matt Tellier is moving on in his life and in his music. His new endeavor, One Man Acoustic, is becoming a staple in local hotspots.

Local rocker goes it alone

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LITTLETON—Since his days as a 14-year-old high school student, Matt Tellier has been persistently picking and strumming his guitar. Some days he's done it with the ambition of writing his own music, and other days he's done it trying to emulate the works of his favorite musicians.

Only 15 years removed from the time he first picked up the instrument, the Littleton resident has already endured many of the highs and lows associated with what it takes to be a successful local entertainer, and now he's trying to turn the page from being a band mate to a solo artist.

"I had a friend of mine who showed me some chords," Tellier said, reflecting on how he got his start as a musician. "[But] I didn't play in my first band until I was 18."

Tellier, who grew up in

Lisbon and speaks proudly of his status as a Panther alumni, said before he hit the local scene in the band "Dirty Joke," he spent several days as a student playing for and entertaining his fellow students.

"I would play in hallways and classes," he said.

After graduating in 1996, he continued working his craft until, with a few friends, he created Dirty Joke. Formed in 2001, the band became a regular hit at local clubs, bars, and showrooms for five years until playing its final show last Halloween. Despite a large fan base — particularly in the Lisbon area — the band called it quits because of difficulties related to self promotion that led to a dwindling number of shows being booked.

"We made a good name for ourselves around here," he said. "[But] promotion in the area was tough. I would spend [a lot of time] going through towns promoting us."

Though his time with Dirty Joke came to an end, his pas-

sion for music only heightened. Determined to make it as a musician, Tellier took on a new role as a solo artist specializing in acoustic cover songs.

"[Before Dirty Joke broke up] I was doing work as a solo artist for four or five months until Halloween. Right now I'm working as a full time musician," he said. Tellier added that working as a full time musician gives him plenty of at-home time with his infant daughter, Josselyn, and his wife, Ronda, whom he credits alongside his grandparents as the biggest influences and supporters of his music.

"Without my grandparents I wouldn't be doing what I do," he said. "[They let me] turn my bedroom into basically a musician commune."

As far as a typical show goes, Tellier said bookers can expect three things: a quality, lengthy, and inexpensive performance.

"I'm always working on

material," he said. "I probably dedicate 5-10 hours a week to learning material. I realize how trends come and go, so I always look to keep my material fresh."

Tellier added that he usually tries to learn two new songs per week, and he is currently working on his own material to add to his over 120-cover song repertoire. Additionally, his set up time rarely exceeds 20 minutes and he often plays a three-hour set, taking a brief break usually only once per show.

"I never get tired of playing," he said. "I take pride in learning everything and I genuinely love the [songs] I play."

When it comes to playing in front of a live crowd, Tellier said there's no substitute, and one his biggest joys as a musician comes when people get excited and sing along to whatever he's playing.

"I enjoy covering songs because people are familiar with [them]," he said. "I'm not at all ashamed to say I play stuff that people love."

For more information on Matt Tellier, visit his official Web site at www.onemana-coustic.com.