

Pleasanton to Nashville

Foothill grad hopes to make his mark in music



by Emily West

Lucas Ohio Pattie's love for music began in his Pleasanton home, flourished through his school years and he is now Nashville-bound. Having fronted a popular band in San Luis Obispo, he plans to get his foot in the door of a thriving music industry.

His musical chops developed from a young age as he grew up surrounded by friends and family making, playing and recording music, telling stories, writing poetry, going to museums and galleries. His dad, Steve Pattie, is an artist who also writes and his mom, Sage Pattie, is a psychotherapist in a private practice on Main Street who he says helped influence his creativity.

As a seventh grader at Pleasanton Middle School, Pattie learned to play the clarinet and stuck with it through his sophomore year at Foothill High School. Then a Martin guitar lured him to expand his musical education.

"My home environment, and the experiences of a good, well-rounded education in Pleasanton, has provided the fertile ground for creating and performing music," he said.

The 25-year-old has spent the past few years as the frontman, singer and songwriter for The Shamblers, a three-person band that dabbles in several types of sounds.

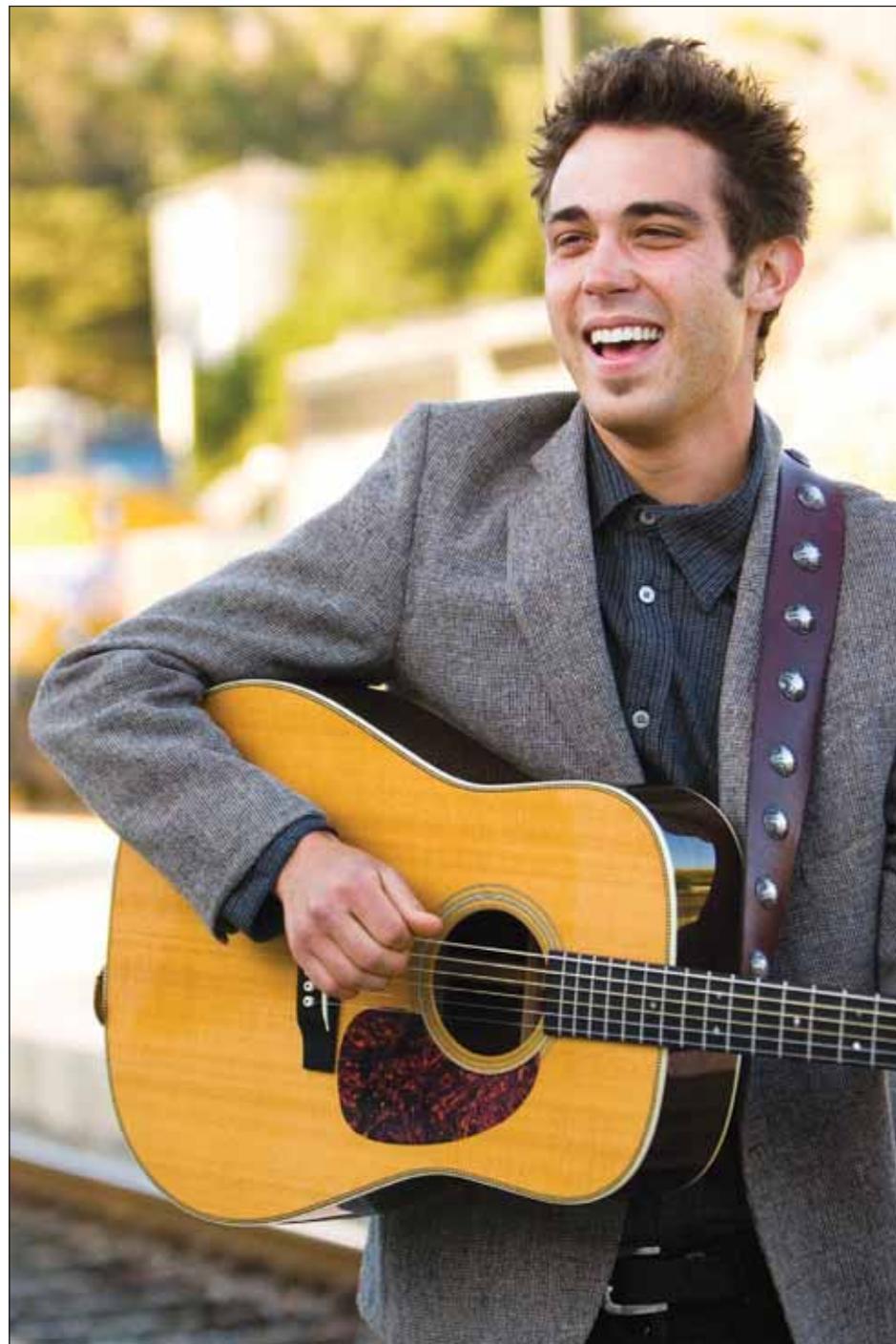
"The band is a blend of rock, blues, country, folk and even a touch of jazz," Pattie said.

"People have sometimes found it difficult to pin us down to any specific genre. This has helped keep it fresh and exciting for us throughout the years."

Together with bandmates Mike Marotto of Boston, Mass. and Colby James from Salinas, The Shamblers released two albums. Their first release was a self-titled debut album in 2006, and "Steps Toward Home" came out in 2008. Both works were well received in the central coast region of California. The latest record was inspired by travels to Fiji, Australia and South Africa. In addition, his traveling tendencies seem to be genetic being a direct descendant of James Ohio Pattie, the author of early travel narratives such as "The Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie," which was published in 1831.

The band, however has decided to dissolve in order to pursue other opportunities.

Now Pattie is back home in Pleasanton before heading to Tennessee, having recently graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in fruit science (pomology). During his time here, he's soaking up inspiration as he writes songs on the back porch of his parents home or down on his grandparents' farm outside of Gilroy. In the future, the family hopes to plant a vineyard. While his interests in agriculture wouldn't appear to correlate with his musical talents, he says it's all a part of creating.



Photos by Zeio Photography

Foothill High School alumnus Lucas Ohio Pattie is heading to Nashville to pursue his musical dreams.

"I wanted to experience the joy of creating something that has never been created," he said, "which is why I've loved working so closely with the land, among orchards, vineyards and the landscape. Being witness to the germination of the seeds and the community of microbes, humus, insects, animals and birds that finally brings the fruit to full bloom."

In Central California, Pattie played for crowds exceeding 300 and the band gained recognition. Having released the two albums independently—despite offers from management companies—he is heading to Nashville with an eye out for an agent and publishing house to represent his catalogue of songs. While entering the second largest music publishing capital in the world as a solo artist, he

also hopes to build a new band.

"The cool thing about Nashville is that it's generally more accessible to getting in the door," he said, "and is particularly supportive from a business standpoint of the songwriter."

With about 80 record labels, 130 publishers, about 180 recording studios and over 100 clubs hosting live performances, it is the land for music opportunity. Pattie plans to come back to the Bay Area for concerts and possibly choose it as his long-term home. However, he doesn't appear to be settling down any time soon.

To hear tracks from his time with The Shamblers, visit www.myspace.com/shamblers. Both albums are available through www.cdbaby.com. ■