



Mike Maple sings at a gig.

From deliveries to decibels

Mike Maple is a letter carrier by day and, by night, the lead singer of Liquid Mike, an indie-rock band from Marquette, MI. The band has gained popularity over recent months, and was featured in *Rolling Stone* magazine. The article called the band, “the best midwestern indie-rock band fronted by a mailman you’ll hear all year” but Liquid Mike is much more than that. The band is touring widely, including recent concerts in Japan.

Maple calls the magazine’s coverage “very validating,” but adds that local

news coverage of the band has affected him more in his daily life. “After the local news...a random person would ask me about it once a week,” he said.

Liquid Mike is made up of Maple on lead vocals and guitar, Monica Nelson on synth and horns, Dave Daignault on guitar, Zack Alworden on bass guitar and Cody Marecek on drums. Maple describes their style as “a little bit of everything. We play some indie, punk, and kind of grunge.”

The band has more than 9,000 monthly Spotify listeners and its most popular song has more than 126,000 listens, with many of the other songs performing almost as well.

As the band grows in popularity, Maple loves when fans know the songs and sing along.

“It is crazy to see people know our songs,” he said. “That has never been the case in any band I’ve been in.”

When he’s not rocking out with Liquid Mike, the Branch 95 member has been delivering mail in Marquette since 2021. Maple likes being outside, although snow and slush are not his favorite. He enjoys listening to music, good and bad, to try to learn and expand his horizons. Now that he has been touring more frequently, post office management has



Liquid Mike practices in Marquette.

Home > Music

Liquid Mike Are The Best Midwestern Indie-Rock Band Fronted By A Mailman You'll Hear All Year

worked with his schedule, so he can still deliver the mail and go on tour.

Maple writes the majority of the band's songs, including the lyrics and guitar, while his bandmates come up with their own parts. He observes his surroundings as he goes about his day, which helps him come up with song ideas. If he hears a phrase or thinks of an idea, later on when working on music for about an hour a day at home, he looks through his ideas and tries to make something of them. Sometimes songs can take a long time to write, but some, like "K2," one of the band's most popular songs, took only about an hour to write. He called it "one of the rare ones that fall out of the sky."

Although Maple generally likes delivering the mail, one day he was walking his route when he was in a bad mood, which inspired a song: "You're always thinking of the old world / You're never running out of manholes to fall / You never think about the next world / ... Your new apocalypse impending."

The band has released five albums since its start in 2021—"Stuntman," "You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth," "A Beer Can and a Bouquet," "S/T" and "Paul Bunyan's Slingshot." That last one came out in a deluxe edition in August.

Liquid Mike does not have a record deal or a recording studio; the band records its music at home. Maple has been building up his recording equipment for years and went to school for audio recording.

"The freedom that we get from recording our own music is huge, because we can do whatever we want," he said. "We don't have to worry about, you know, what's going to sell or what people are going to like."

It is important to Maple to maintain that independence. When asked what bands inspired Liquid Mike, Maple replied, "I guess there's a couple of bands I've always loved, like, bands that have been able to do things on their own terms." He pointed to Guided by Voices as an example.



"They did it when they were older, when they were, like, all in their mid-30s," he said. "And they always did their own artwork and recorded on very [lousy] equipment, and they still managed to make some of the best records of the decade."

Although Maple had previously toured just the East Coast of the United States, in August he had the opportunity to tour Japan with bandmates Daignault and Alworden as part of a grunge emo band called Charmer.

"It was very special to see that," Maple said. "Just people rocking out in a country where they don't all speak the same language; it's very inspiring."

Maple doesn't plan to stop touring. Liquid Mike was scheduled to depart in late September on a five-week-long U.S. tour throughout the Midwest, South and East. During the tour, Liquid Mike planned to release a new single, "Crop Circles," on Sept. 25.

You can take *Rolling Stone's* word that Liquid Mike's "Paul Bunyan's Slingshot" is worth a listen. The magazine also wrote, "You might have to go back to the 1971 debut by John Prine to find a record by an employee of the United States Postal Service that wins this hard." **PR**

Rolling Stone recognized the band and Maple's job as a letter carrier.



The band members jam while in Japan.