

The IMAGINARIES

A few years ago, Shane Henry and Maggie McClure of the husband-and-wife duo, The Imaginaries, were a newly-minted group with a prestigious inaugural performance opportunity on the books, but no band name. The Americana twosome frantically searched for a moniker that connoted boldness, adventure, and big dreams, and the name and logo came to Shane in his sleep. It was something of an escapist's plea. The reality was Shane and Maggie were living in LA in squalid conditions as struggling artists.

Thankfully, things are much better these days for the Oklahoma-based duo as it releases its masterful sophomore album, *Fever*, out August 22. It's a blow-your-hair-back song collection, chock-full of gritty blues-rock riffs, mesmerizing vocal harmonies, driving pop-rock tunes, heartfelt singer-songwriter ballads, delicious guitar tones, and dazzling solos. In addition to Shane's six-string talents, the 12-song album boasts guitar solo cameos from Vince Gill, Joe Bonamassa, and Ariel Posen.

"This new album is about being on the other side of struggle. It's about breakthrough—not that we have it all figured out!" Maggie says with a good-natured laugh. Shane adds: "There are a lot of hopeful stories on this album. We want to put smiles on people's faces."

The Imaginaries blend Shane's guitar-slinging blues-rock roots with Maggie's boldly vulnerable singer-songwriter sensibility. The results are a pop-Americana aesthetic that evokes Tom Petty, Fleetwood Mac, The Civil Wars, and Bonnie Raitt. To date, the Imaginaries have released a Christmas collection, *Hometown Christmas*, a self-titled debut, and numerous singles. Select live highlights include sharing stages with Judy Collins, John Waite, The Gatlin Brothers, and Sixpence None The Richer, and an invitation to open for the Brian Setzer Orchestra Christmas Tour before the pandemic.

The Imaginaries have amassed 75-plus sync-licensing placements in film, television, and advertisements. The duo wrote and produced the soundtrack for the feature film, *A Cowgirl's Song*, which featured Maggie and Shane as co-stars. The couple had two songs featured in the Netflix movie, *Mending The Line*. The Imaginaries also had a track featured, and an on-camera cameo performance, in the biopic, *Reagan*, starring Dennis Quaid. Maggie and Shane appear in the upcoming film, *The One*, which will also feature a handful of their Christmas originals.

Many of these projects have come their way because Maggie and Shane embrace an entrepreneurial mindset. They see these opportunities as ways to sustain their artistry rather than distract from it. Maggie is an established music supervisor with a strong track record of securing song placements in film and TV. "It's important to have business savvy as an artist so you don't get taken advantage of," she shares.

Shane's quest for the perfect guitar tone led him to start the boutique guitar pedal company, Westerlund Audio, with partners Matt Stansberry and Jim Robinson. "By having other sources of income, you don't have to let financial decisions steer the rudder of your creativity," Shane says.

Maggie and Shane are born and raised, proud Oklahomans. Maggie is from the large city of Norman, and Shane is from the tiny, 700-person town of Verden. Both wield impressive solo artist resumes with prime song placements, critically-acclaimed solo albums, acting appearances, and landmark live performances.

Shane and Maggie met when she opened for Shane. They fell in love, married in 2011, and, shortly after, moved to LA to pursue their solo careers. Though they each featured in each other's bands as a backing musician, Maggie and Shane's first official collaboration was the Christmas album, *Hometown Christmas*. Yet, what cemented their artistic union was an invitation to perform as a duo in Muscle Shoals, Alabama on Grammy-winning engineer John Cuniberti's (Train, Aerosmith, PJ Harvey) YouTube program, "The OneMic Series." Initially, the couple applied as solo artists, but John suggested Maggie and Shane perform as a duo.

Recording in Muscle Shoals became something of a sacred place for The Imaginaries. They have since tracked both of their albums there, working with the studio's legendary session musicians, first and second generation Swampers, whose collective resume spans Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Paul Simon, Little Richard, Jason Isbell, Gregg Allman, Neil Young, John Paul White, The Secret Sisters, and Hank Williams Jr.

The Imaginaries new album is a guns-a-blazing artistic statement. The title track is an adrenalized melding of edgy blues-rock and soaring pop. It features a day-in-the-life narrative that comes to life in a stylish video replete with one of Shane's muscle cars. It captures just how we imagine the twosome travel and tour, living something of a wholesome-but-rock n' roll Bonnie and Clyde romance.

Maggie wrote the tender ballad, "Constant," for Shane. One achingly beautiful passage is: *When the shadows make you run and hide/And you feel a little lost inside/Just know, I'll be your constant*. Shane explores a historical narrative on "Buzzard's Roost," a Jesse James-themed song which manages to be both cinematic and ultra-catchy. The country-flavored ballad, "Little By Little," features a breathtaking harmony vocal interlace, as the couple sing about their path as musicians with a rousing we're-in-this-together resilience.

Up next, The Imaginaries have tour dates to support the release of *Fever* as well as movie, *The One*; an ongoing YouTube performance series; and a 2026 European tour. "I'm so fired up to play these songs. I feel like a kid again, waiting to get off the bus to play guitar for five hours!" Shane enthuses. Maggie quips: "Just like in the song, 'Fever,' it's 'Pedal to the floor/Nothing can stop us now!'"

###