

## **Chit-Chat with Matt Holmen: We The Living puts on benefit concert for Cystic Fibrosis**

Submitted by [Alicia Spates](#) on September 8, 2009 - 3:56pm

We The Living isn't expecting to change the world with their music, but helping charities raise money does that on some level. The national-touring band will perform a benefit concert on Sept. 16 at the La Grange Theatre, with the band Von Chalant as the opening act. Proceeds from the concert will go toward the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a national organization working to assure the development of the means to cure and control the genetic disorder that affects the digestive system and lungs. We The Living's lead guitarist Matt Holmen views the concert as an important awareness to the disorder.

### **How did this band come together?**

We're all originally from Wisconsin. We got together to fill in for a tour in 2007 ... and after that tour, we've been on the road all the time performing. A lot of bands say they started in the basement, but we didn't. We rarely get basement time because we're always touring. We try to play 200 shows a year, but we usually play about 180 to 200 shows. And we've been really busy this summer moving into our new place in Nashville. We try to play as many shows as we can to get our name out there. There's really nothing we'd rather be doing. We just want to play.

### **What is the meaning behind the band's name?**

"We The Living" is actually the title of a novel by Ayn Rand, one of our favorite authors. It's a more coherent band name than "Atlas Shrugged." (laugh)

### **What is the band's personal music style?**

The more I'm asked that question the more I'm torn between all the different music genres out there. Simply put, we're rock. Some people say we sound like Coldplay meets Foo Fighters, which is a compliment to us.

### **How did it come for you to be part of this benefit concert?**

We're working with a girl named Nora Silver and she's the one who set the show up. We do a lot of charity shows ... because it's cool to give to a good cause. We're always happy to help raise money for a charity.

### **You've already released two albums, "Heights of the Heavens" and "Depths of the Earth." Is there another album coming from the band?**

We will actually soon be releasing an EP for free, titled "Boom Forest," to all of our online subscribers. So there's that, and right now, we're in the process of writing our next album, which we expect to be out in 2010. Our new album will have a more unified and bigger sound.

**HEAR THEM PLAY**

**WHAT** We The Living and Von Chalant, to support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

**WHERE** La Grange Theatre, 80 S. La Grange Road, La Grange; (708) 579-2173; for tickets, e-mail [norarsilver@gmail.com](mailto:norarsilver@gmail.com)

**WHEN** 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**HOW MUCH** \$10, includes unlimited popcorn and soda

**Websites:**

We The Living: <http://www.wetheliving.com>

Von Chalant: <http://www.myspace.com/vonchalant>