

Feature Story Version – “Cut The Music”: Evan Rotella Finds His Voice Between Niagara Falls and Rock & Roll

When Niagara Falls native Evan Rotella first walked into a Hamilton studio to write with John-Angus and Colin MacDonald of The Trews, it felt surreal. A lifelong fan of the band, Rotella wasn't just meeting his heroes—he was creating with them.

“I'm a big Trews fan, so this was a big deal to me,” he says. “Once I got over that, we started writing, and I just tried to soak up as much as possible.”

The result is “*Cut The Music*,” a song that perfectly captures the pulse of a hometown that never sleeps but rarely stands still. It's about living in a tourist town — Niagara Falls — where millions pass through, but locals see the rhythm of life in the in-between moments.

John-Angus recalls the collaboration fondly. “Evan came in with the core idea, and the three of us just dug in,” he says. “We focused on the unique loneliness of being a permanent resident in a transient town. Once we found that truth, everything fell into place.”

Produced by John-Angus and featuring Mark Rogers of LMT Connection, “*Cut The Music*” fuses Rotella's storytelling roots with a gritty, full-band energy. It's the first taste of his upcoming album *Abandon All Hope*, a record that finds the young songwriter moving beyond the folk textures of his debut into a raw, heart-forward rock sound influenced by The Gaslight Anthem, Jesse Malin, and — naturally — The Trews.

For Rotella, the shift feels right. “My first album was very rootsy and Americana,” he says. “This time, I wanted to make a band record. Something with energy, movement, and heart. ‘Cut The Music’ is exactly that.”

“*Cut The Music*” drops November 21, 2025 on all major streaming platforms.

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