

Grace Hallowell:

What's Up, College Station? I'm Grace Hallowell, and today my guest is Casey Barone over at Visit College Station.

Hi, Casey.

Casey Barone:

Hi, Grace.

Grace Hallowell:

So we are coming off of the big George Strait concert, which was a great time here in Aggieland, but coming up at the end of this week, the music continues with Make Music Day.

Casey Barone:

Yeah, so we are really excited to participate in Make Music Day for the first time this year, and it's part of just growing our music community locally, since becoming a Texas Music-Friendly City back in November. And of course, one of those ways that we do that is Hang Out And Tune In, which we've discussed on the show before.

But now, right now, we're going to participate in Make Music Day, which is this Friday, June 21st, essentially the longest day of the year, summer solstice. And it's celebrated all over the world, and we're just really excited that College Station is part of it this year.

Grace Hallowell:

Yes, so we are not the only ones participating, but we're going to have the best celebration, I think.

Casey Barone:

Yeah, I'm hoping so. As for a first year, we'll have some things to learn from it and figure out how to work out some kinks, I think. But for the first year, I'm really excited to see where it goes and how it grows in the future. So we were only one of 16 cities in Texas participating in Make Music Day, and again, celebrated all over the world. Over 1,000 cities, 120 different countries participate.

It started in France in 1982, and essentially, they just had this idea where music would be celebrated anywhere, by anyone, all over the cities. So whether that be on the street, at a park, storefronts, wherever, music would be played and celebrated.

Grace Hallowell:

Yes, so what kind of activities do we have going on that day?

Casey Barone:

So right now, we have nine hosting locations that are signed up to host performers, and we have eight musicians signed up as well. So with that, you can go in, and if you're looking to perform, you can go in and sign up, or if you're looking to participate in some way. And so that's really the first part, and it's to celebrate all day, so it can be any time of the day that you want to participate.

And then other ways that we are participating in Make Music Day for our younger generation, for one, is Visit College Station will be hosting a Boomwhacker lesson in our event space at 10:00 AM. That's 1207 Texas Avenue. That's kind of geared toward our younger generation. They'll kind of have some interaction of learning how to play those Boomwhackers. We have some shakers and little round ... Sorry,

what are they called? And we'll have some rhythm rounders that they can learn from. And so we're really excited about that, and we'll have some more information being sent out through social media about it.

And then another way is that Thorn Music Center will be hosting a ukulele group lesson, where you can learn how to play the song, You Are My Sunshine. The time on that is still being worked out, but again, if you follow us on social media, we'll begin to put out information about that so that you'll know how you can participate.

Grace Hallowell:

Yes, and that Boomwhacker lesson sounds intriguing to me. I've never heard of a Boomwhacker before.

Casey Barone:

Yeah, so they're these pipes. I think you see them at parks sometimes. I think the Fun For All Park has some of those, where they're just these long pipes, and you can just hit them, and so you're supposed to learn some sort of music rhythm with it and those different music sounds.

Grace Hallowell:

Well, awesome. So again, we've been telling people to tune into our social media. Where can they find more information, and what accounts can they follow to stay up to date with the times and locations of these events?

Casey Barone:

Yeah, so if you're looking to participate, you have until June 19th to sign up, and you can go to [www.makemusicday.org/collegestation](http://www.makemusicday.org/collegestation). And on there, you can find step-by-step instructions on how to sign up, to whether be a hosting location or be a performer. And again, when I say performer, you can be at any skill level, any genre. You can be a beginner to an expert. We welcome it, however you see yourself.

And then if you want to know who is playing where, when, the lineup, you can also head to that website, [www.makemusicday.org/collegestation](http://www.makemusicday.org/collegestation), or follow us on social media: Visit College Station. We'll be posting lots of information, especially this week, as we're gearing up towards it. We'll be pushing out a lot of info for everybody, so that they know what is going on and when and where and that sort of thing.

Grace Hallowell:

And yes, I know the George Strait concert was a big deal for us. That is a national name that came to Aggieland to celebrate the culture of music we have here, but I've heard a lot of buzz about the local artists around town that we're playing that weekend as well. So we have a rich music history here that is perfect for everyone, of any skill level, like you said.

Casey Barone:

Yeah, and we're really trying to work on cultivating those relationships with our local musicians, and we have some really great talent. And so whether you just really aren't sure if you're ready to get out there yet and be known or let people hear you, really, Make Music Day is your way to start.

And another way is going to Hang Out And Tune In that we have monthly. But yeah, recently, we're growing so much in music right now, and it's a really great thing to see, whether it be George Strait, who's well-known, and also that week, had some really great performers. We had Robert Earl Keen and Lyle Lovett here, along with Max Stalling at other places in College Station. So we're really cultivating that music scene here in College Station. It's really exciting to see.

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Grace Hallowell:

Yes, it is the place to be.

Casey Barone:

Yeah, absolutely.

Grace Hallowell:

Well, thank you so much for being here today, Casey.

Casey Barone:

Absolutely. Thank you so much.

Grace Hallowell:

And that's What's Up.