

# Jamie Langley flags down the music with Stage Coach

**Amanda Sieradzki**  
Council on Culture & Arts

Musician and Stage Coach band member Jamie Langley dusted off his 20-year-old guitar two years ago. Now he can't put it down. He plays while working in his store and eagerly learns from every musically inclined customer who comes through the door. He credits the way he holds his hands on the guitar from one gentleman who frequented his shop for a few months.

"What surprises me is the amount of talent people have that you just don't know about," says Langley. "There is something they're doing differently that I'll end up doing because I like the way they did it."

The reason he picked up his guitar again in the first place was thanks to a young man who asked about the guitar Langley's wife had bought him 28 years ago. Langley said the strings made his fingers hurt, but when the customer showed him a different way to play, he was hooked. Now, Langley and Stage Coach singer Ashton Stoyer are gearing up for their next gig at The Wine House on Market Street on Nov. 6.

"I don't know if I was so young that I didn't understand it or hear it, but all of



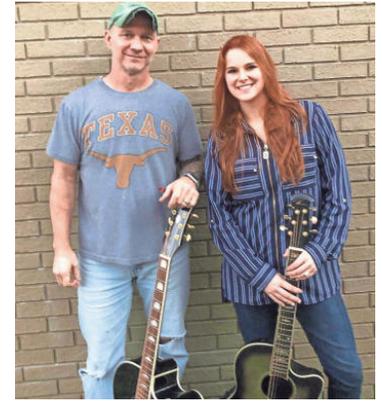
TALLAHASSEE

a sudden I could hear the music," says Langley. "I can't explain it."

In terms of style, Langley is a fan of country music and its ability to share stories. He fondly recalls listening to greats like Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn on an old record player in his child-

hood home in Leesburg, Georgia. He still gravitates to the music of Kenny Rogers and the Oak Ridge Boys when looking for inspiration and will often play their covers at shows.

Langley practices eight to 10 hours a day and enjoys finding a quiet space to



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write original songs. Before he found music, Langley served in the Marine Corps for four years where he was also able to serve as part of the Marines' wrestling team. He ended up trying out for the Olympics, and now devotes that

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same intensity and grit to his craft and practice at the guitar.

“It’s a painful process,” says Langley. “It takes a couple weeks to get hard calluses, but once they’re there, they’re there.”

Before forming Stage Coach, Langley enjoyed going out and singing karaoke with his wife. After he got five months of practice under his belt, and with the help of a co-worker, he felt like he was ready to get up on a stage. As part of the band’s set, he crafted a “stagecoach” out of wood with two wheels.

The band’s name was initially a play on words given his stage fright, but now Langley is eager to crack a joke in between songs. The spirit of karaoke is alive and well at every show, as Langley will often call up an audience member to sing along with them for a song or two. At a recent show, his wife joined him on-stage and was treated to a request for an encore from the crowd.

“We always call someone up to sing because it gives them the opportunity to get up on a stage,” says Langley, who admits one the biggest challenges he has overcome has been finding places to play. “You may have been told no a hundred times, but one day you look up and someone says yes. Those people that brought you to the dance so to speak allowed you to play for the first time, and you have a tremendous amount of respect for them. The Wine House was one of those people for us.”

## If you go

**What:** Live Music by Stage Coach

**When:** 7-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6

**Where:** The Wine House on Market Street, 1355 Market St.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** For more information please call 850-893-2254 or visit [www.facebook.com/stagecoach850](http://www.facebook.com/stagecoach850).

In spite of the pandemic putting a temporary hold on sharing live music in a traditional venue, Stage Coach made the most of their time during the quarantine. Langley met up with Stoyer to co-write new songs together which he is excited to share with Tallahassee soon.

In the meantime, Langley says Stage Coach has played many outdoor shows for free just for the love of the music. He is looking forward to the Wine House set given the venue’s unique intimate setting, and is always ready to take requests from the crowd. In the mix of cover songs, he is hopeful for the day when someone asks to hear an original Stage Coach song.

“Playing is unbelievably and utterly gratifying,” says Langley. “It’s like loving a dog unconditionally, you just love it. I found it so late but I’m glad I found it because you can lose yourself in music. It takes me to a different place.”

*Amanda Sieradzki is the feature writer for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area’s umbrella agency for arts and culture ([www.tallahasseearts.org](http://www.tallahasseearts.org)).*