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Digital Video Productions, Inc.

# NOWHERE SLOW



## “Listen/Love”

[CD – Digital] – Released November 10, 2010

Rick Gillette · Will Clauss · John Canjar · Matt Kester

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. This Is Our Night  | 7. Blue Eyed Boy  |
| 2. Count On Me        | 8. Miss U         |
| 3. Made You Look      | 9. Go Away        |
| 4. Hard to Believe    | 10. Never Get Old |
| 5. Same Old Love Song | 11. Now and Then  |
| 6. Hero               |                   |



Record by: **Eric Ritter**  
Windmill Agency, Mt. Cobb, PA

Produced by: **Eric Ritter**



Mastered by: **Chris Wright**  
Abbey Road Studio, London, UK

UPC: 884501419390

Artist/Information Contact: **Will Clauss**  
(570) 470-4658  
Will@NowhereSlow.com  
www.NowhereSlow.com

Booking /Publicity: **Matt Morgis**  
(570) 574-3868  
Matthew.Morgis@gmail.com  
www.Reveread.com

As a winding guitar riff finds its way home, the drums and bass drop out suddenly and *Nowhere Slow*'s latest studio album opens with two words.

## Wake up

It is both an announcement and an invitation. Having played in front of packed clubs in Northeastern Pennsylvania for the better part of a decade, *Nowhere Slow* has reached new heights with *Listen/Love*, its fourth and most ambitious studio album. Blending pop sensibility with tight harmonies and melodic songwriting, the four-piece band has branched out in every way, exploring new sounds while booking new venues and finding new challenges on stage and in the studio.

With “*Listen/Love*,” *Nowhere Slow* is entering the most exciting part of its career. The week the album became available to fans, the band drew hundreds of people — on a Wednesday night in Scranton, Pennsylvania — to its CD release show and did that without the assistance of traditional promotion or management. Also that week, the **Weekender**, Northeastern Pennsylvania's most widely read publication, shared with its more than 145,000 readers a review that praised “*Listen/Love*” as “a strong piece of original music that should not be ignored.”

“*Listen/Love*” is chock full of radio-friendly songs, such as “**Made You Look**” and “**Hard to Believe**,” with **Rick Gillette**'s distinctive and harmonious vocals blending gorgeously with **John Canjar**'s sophisticated and unpredictable yet mainstream-friendly lead guitars. Bassist **Will Clauss** and drummer **Matt Kester** hold it all together in a backbone rhythm section that provides a rock-steady foundation for Gillette and Canjar's melodies.

The sonically pristine album was expertly produced by **Eric Ritter** and mastered at the legendary **Abbey Road Studio** in London.

The recent achievements of *Nowhere Slow* have come as no surprise to fans and music industry types who have been paying close attention to the band for several years as it has become a popular act on the club circuit and beyond. The band earned a coveted side stage slot at **Toyota Pavilion at Montage Mountain** — an 18,000-seat venue — not once but twice, playing there before a **John Mayer/Train** show as well as a **James Taylor** concert. The band has also been tabbed to share stages on separate occasions with popular nationally touring acts **Cartel**, **Quietdrive** and **A Change of Pace** and has earned radio spins on **102.3 FM The Mountain**, a commercial rock station in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

For *Nowhere Slow*'s loyal fan base, the new songs became requested setlist additions even before the album's release, and the band began expanding from its Scranton base to play its new material in front of new crowds at new venues. The music is always a work in progress, but *Nowhere Slow* has found its identity in a sound both catchy and challenging; accessible without feeling generic. The musical evolution continues, but *Nowhere Slow* has found its stride. The new album is a wake-up call, and this locally established band is ready for a new day.

# album reviews

## Linkin Park's expansion

In 2000, California alternative rock band Linkin Park released the iconic "Hybrid Theory." The band instantly pushed itself to the forefront of the music scene with its own innovative brand of electronic rap-rock. Quite different from anything else at the time, Linkin Park quickly distinguished itself as a diverse band that was able to successfully fuse electronica, hard rock, metal and even rap. Since the release of "Hybrid Theory," the band has consistently released albums that have stayed true to its edgy and distinct style.

Based on the band's catalog of music, listeners might not know what to make of its latest

effort "A Thousand Suns," which was released in September. Linkin Park is very different these days. With that being said, different isn't necessarily bad in this case. The band has long been known for its innovative writing, and "A Thousand Suns" exemplifies that talent, as it's an instrumental masterpiece.

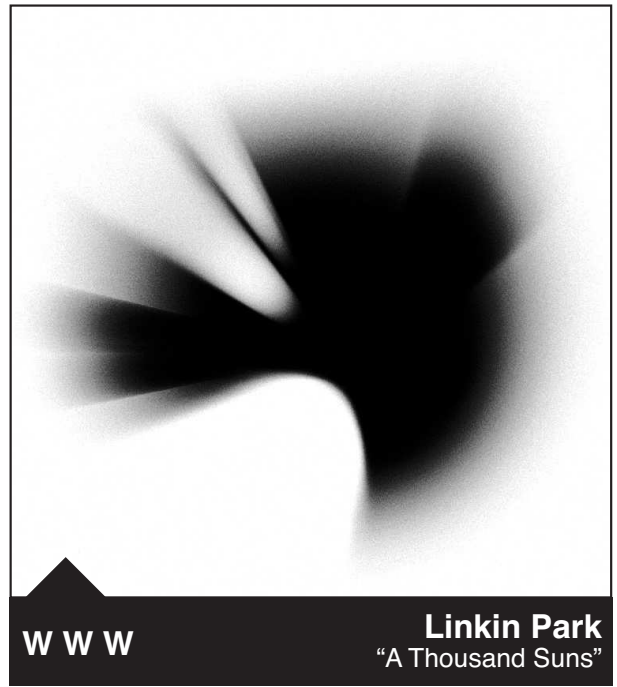
The first single "The Catalyst" is a prime example of how Linkin Park's music has reached a new level and has evolved to incorporate a much more technical and instrumental-driven sound. The album begins with "The Requiem," a slow instrumental that practically bleeds into the second track "The Radiance,"

which consists of a brief speech by J. Robert Oppenheimer. The band also included the words of Martin Luther King Jr. on "Wisdom, Justice, and Love" and political activist Mario Savio on "Wretches and Kings," emphasizing political undertones throughout.

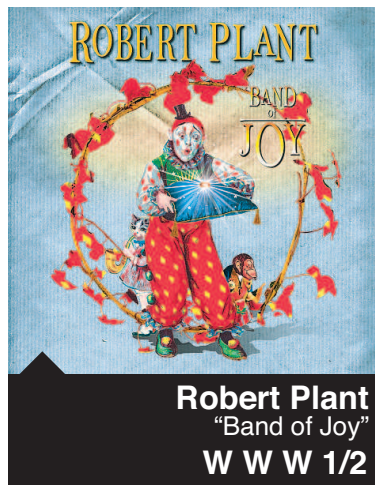
One thing that has always made this band stand out is the back-and-forth between Chester Bennington's melodic vocals and those of rapper Mike Shinoda. The two seemed to have truly honed in on this skill, utilizing that interesting dynamic between pretty and edgy on much of the album.

"A Thousand Suns" may verge pretty far away from the Linkin Park we have come to know, but it shows that this band is ever changing for the better and still has original and interesting material to offer.

-- Lisa Schaeffer  
Weekender Correspondent



**Linkin Park**  
"A Thousand Suns"



**Robert Plant**  
"Band of Joy"  
W W W 1/2

## Plant spreads 'Joy'

Robert Plant may have stepped back into the spotlight with his ninth solo release titled "Band of Joy," but there's not a music fan on Earth that could have predicted that he would be creating music like this 30 years after Led Zeppelin folded.

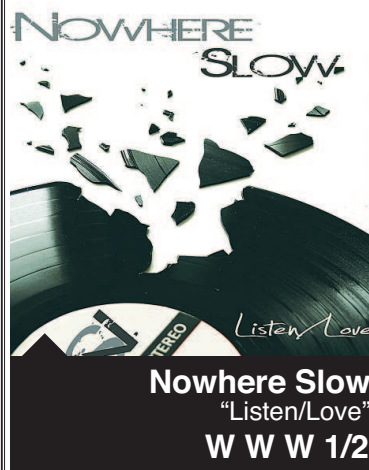
"Band of Joy" is an excellent companion piece to "Raising Sand," the 2007 collaboration with Alison Krauss that snagged five Grammys and won tons

of critical acclaim. This time out, the producer's chair is filled by bandleader/guitarist Buddy Miller, but the overall sound on "Band of Joy" follows the same general path taken by T-Bone Burnett on "Sand." With Patty Griffin sitting in for Krauss, both recordings have the same rootsy, lo-fi feel and feature inventive interpretations of classic American folk and blues.

While "Falling In Love Again" would have fit nicely on the Honeydrippers project back in 1984, the remaining tracks are miles away from the rest of Plant's catalog. The inspiration on "Band of Joy" comes from vintage country, blues, r&b and even bluegrass. This collection is made up of obscure covers by several generally unknown but well-respected artists. The album opens with the rhythmic "Angel Dance," written by David Hidalgo of Los Lobos, and slides effortlessly into "Silver Rider" and "Monkey," two tracks by Minnesota slowcore heroes Low. Richard Thompson's "House of Cards" benefits from Griffin's counterpoint vocals and maintains the slow-boil effect.

Any Plant fan worth his or her salt will reach for "Pictures At Eleven" or "Now & Zen" before this one gets played, but "Band of Joy" is a welcome diversion and an artistic triumph. Just don't come expecting the hammer of the gods.

-- Kevin Krieger  
Weekender Correspondent



**Nowhere Slow**  
"Listen/Love"  
W W W 1/2

## Strong fourth outing

It's a rare occasion when an artist crafts music mainstream enough to make young girls swoon and squeal while maintaining a level of musicianship that can capture the attention of more serious listeners. It's a tall task, but it's one Northeastern Pa. band Nowhere Slow lives up to on "Listen/Love," its fourth album and first in three years.

Like any band, Nowhere Slow — Rick Gillette (vocals, guitar), Will Clauss

(bass), John Canjar (guitar, vocals) and Matt Kester (drums) — draws from its influences, and you can hear some Dave Matthews Band, Jason Mraz and maybe a hint of Kings Of Leon in the 11 tracks that make up "Listen/Love." But that is not to say that this is a copycat outfit by any means; Gillette's distinctive vocals, the fleet-fingered electric guitar of Canjar and the tasteful yet sometimes quirky rhythms of Clauss and Kester make sure of that.

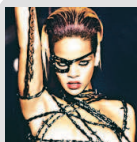
The opener is the anthemic "This Is Our Night," which jangles along like a DMB or Mraz tune but with more electric guitar crunch. It's percussive and radio-friendly, and the bridge is quite ambitious, with a tempo shift and layered vocal harmonies. Nowhere Slow delves into its funkier side on "Count On Me," with a reggae/r&b feel and slippery guitars, and on "Made You Look," the acoustic and electric guitars blend perfectly.

The quasi-spiritual "Hero," complete with tinkling piano, also has a shot at radio spins, and "Miss U" has a darker, cool, feel, but the standout track here might be "Hard To Believe," a song whose strength lies in its simplicity.

Many locals might know Nowhere Slow for its live cover songs, but "Listen/Love" is a strong piece of original music that should not be ignored.

-- Michael Lello  
Weekender Editor

## charts



**OTWANT** Top 8 at 8 with **Ralphie Aversa**

8. Neon Trees: "Animal"
7. Flo Rida/David Guetta: "Club Can't Handle Me"
6. Katy Perry: "Teenage Dream"
5. Nelly: "Just A Dream"
4. Usher/Pitbull: "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love"
3. Far East Movement: "Like A G6"
2. Bruno Mars: "Just The Way You Are"
1. **Rihanna: "Only Girl (In The World)"**



**Gallery Of Sounds** Top 10 Local Albums

1. Jason Aldean: "My Kinda Party"
2. Taylor Swift: "Speak Now"
3. Escape The Fate: "Escape The Fate"
4. Lil' Wayne: "I Am Nit A Human Being"
5. Neil Diamond: "Dreams"
6. Rod Stewart: "Fly Me To The Moon"
7. Kings Of Leon: "Come Around Sundown"
8. Elvis Costello: "National Ransom"
9. Mariah Carey: "Merry Christmas II You"
10. Weezer: "Death To False Metal"

# music

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## charts

# Nowhere Slow speeds forward

**W**hen Nowhere Slow drops its new CD in just a few weeks, some things will be new, while others will stay the same. But vocalist and guitarist Rick Gillette says the new record — the band's fourth and its first in three years — should satisfy its fans while also allowing the group to grow as musicians.

"It's not going to be a huge departure for Nowhere Slow fans," he says. "It's the same type of poppy rock songs that we had before. But we go a little heavier on this album, and we even go a little lighter, so it's kind of got everything on it. I think we can please almost everyone."

Gillette says the musical changes that did come during the sessions weren't calculated but rather happened quite organically. And that, perhaps most importantly, is what's most pleasing to the band.

"I think it's just a progression," he says. "You're on your fourth album, and you want to explore other realms of your musical taste or development. I've been playing acoustic guitar for the last three years, and it was like, 'What would happen if I put an electric on?' That was kind of what we were looking for. Explore everything, and not just limit ourselves to what we considered our go-to Nowhere Slow sound."

Rounding out the Nowhere Slow lineup is Bill Claus on bass, John Canjar on guitar and Matt Kester on drums. The new CD is a follow-up to 2001's "Look Up And Jam," 2005's "Two Weeks" and 2007's "Stranger In The Alps." It was recorded at Windmill Studios in Mt. Cobb, was produced by Eric Ritter and is being mastered at Abbey Road studios in London. Song titles include "Made You Look," "Go Away," "Same Old Love Song" and "This Is Our Night."

Though Nowhere Slow has been a popular working band in NE-PA for nine years, the forthcoming CD will be the first on which Canjar and Kester have been a part of the project from the beginning. Gillette says the two have been a big plus for the band.

"It's definitely affected the record," he says. "The two of them have worked together their whole lives. It was very easy for them to adjust, musically. And Matt knew the songs for the longest time. He used to do sound for us for years. It was a really easy transition. John and Matt are both extremely musical people and very talented musicians, so it definitely gave us a little more of musical edge."

Gillette names Dave Mathews, John Mayer and Third Eye Blind as some of his influences and favorites, and says songs by acts such as Kings Of Leon, Train and Maroon 5 all sometimes show up in the band's sets. He adds, however, that although the group's members have plenty of common bonds when it comes to music, their differences have also had a positive impact on the band.

"I go as heavy as Breaking Benjamin, and I go as soft as Michael Buble," he says. "I know it's typical to say, but I really do like everything. And the rest of the guys, we're pretty much the same. We all have stuff in common that we like, and we all have stuff that we can kind of show each other. I was never into The Beatles that much until John started really showing me some of their stuff. It's not that I didn't respect them, I just never got into it. It's cool that we all have this little different backgrounds that we can show each other, and it kind of helps us develop our sound."

Gillette says the band feels fortunate to have been a busy and working unit for nearly a decade. He says that shortly after Nowhere Slow debuted, the NEPA club scene began to slide, and that he is aware it might not be possible today for a new band to



find such immediate success. But there's more to luck and good timing involved in Nowhere Slow's longevity. The band is professional and personable, and, as recently seen at its performance at the Weekender/Mountaingrown Original Music Series, it has some great new songs in its repertoire.

Gillette says it all comes from two things: passion for music and a constant desire to get better.

"First of all, we love what we do," he says. "And second of all, I don't think we've even begun to peak yet. In 2001, back at the time, I was an 18- or 19-year-old kid, and I was a little naive in thinking that what we did was this decent album. But listening back to it now, I'm like, 'Oh my God. This is just awful.' Back then, we were just kids trying to do it, and I think we're still are kids trying to do it, we're just progressing more. We still have a ton to learn, and we have a ton to do. We still have that 'we're-just-starting' mentality. It doesn't get old for us."

Nor does releasing new songs that connect with fans, which should happen again in August with the release of the new album.

"You talk about music being art, and they always say, 'Once you complete a song, it's not yours anymore. It's somebody else's.' I try to take that to heart, and use that with everything I do with music. It's not just about me as an artist. It's about the people that are coming to see you. Because if they don't come to see you, you can't do what you do. So it's kind of theirs, too. That's how I always think about it."

Info: [www.nowhereslow.com](http://www.nowhereslow.com)



## music on the menu

By Alan K. Stout  
Music Columnist

### The Mountaingrown Original Music Series

"Music On The Menu Live"  
Sunday at 8 p.m. on 102.3-FM

Phyllis Hopkins  
Underground Saints  
Shawn Z.  
OurAfter  
Jeanne Zano

... and more

### 97.9HT Top 8 at 8 with Ralphie Aversa

8. Jason Derulo: "Ridin' Solo"
7. Mike Posner: "Cooler Than Me"
6. Usher/Will.I.Am: "OMG"
5. La Roux: "Bulletproof"
4. Travie McCoy/Bruno Mars: "Billie Jean"
3. B.o.B./Hayley Williams: "Airplanes"
2. Ke\$ha: "Your Love Is My Drug"
1. Katy Perry/Snoop Dogg: "California Gurls"

### Billboard Heatseekers

1. Alejandro Escovedo: "Street Songs ..."
2. Andre Rieu: "Forever Vienna"
3. Florence + The Machine: "Lungs"
4. Edward Sharpe & ...: "Up From ..."
5. Jimmy Webb: "Just Across ..."
6. Neon Trees: "Habits"
7. Jackie Greene: "Till The Light ..."
8. Steel Train: "Steel Train"
9. Pierce The Veil: "Selfish Machines"
10. Semi Precious Weapons: "You Love You"

### The Weekender's Gallery Of Sound

#### Top 10 Local Albums

1. Lady Gaga: "Fame Monster" (deluxe)
2. Eminem: "Relapse Refill"
3. J. Cole: "The Warm Up"
4. Jay-Z: "Blueprint 3"
5. Lady Gaga: "Fame Monster EP"
6. Alicia Keys: "Element Of Freedom"
7. Kings Of Leon: "Only By The Night"
8. Mudvayne: "Mudvayne"
9. Rihanna: "Rated R"
10. Breaking Benjamin: "Dear Agony"

# Pop Rock Powerhouse

Nowhere Slow's new album raises the bar

BY RANDY SHEMANSKI

Nowhere Slow has seen its share of changes throughout the years. Lead singer and guitarist Rick Gillette is the only remaining original member, which may be why he often seems like a proud father when he talks about the band's accomplishments after releasing its latest album, *Listen/Love*, a few weeks ago.

Don't get us wrong, Gillette is by no means in the later years of his music career. He's simply matured into a well-rounded musician who can look back on the band's music from the early 2000s and see its faults — mostly shoddy recording. That perspective also allows Gillette to confidently say he's proud of *Listen/Love*, a thoughtful collection of pop rock songs that range from acoustic ballad to dark rock.

Nowhere Slow — Gillette, John Canjar (guitar, vocals), Will Claus (bass) and Matt Kester (drums) — released the album in early November and is still riding the momentum of the 11-song disc. While most of their live shows are highlighted by rousing cover songs, anyone who considers Nowhere Slow a cover band is denying themselves an impressive musical experience. Nowhere Slow's originals are sharp and imaginative, and *Listen/Love* is their best effort yet.

While the mostly pop-rock group doesn't have a laundry list of goals for the album, it's clear they had a few things in mind when they went into The Windmill Agency Studio in Mount Cobb. Gillette mentions wanting to make an album that reflects the band's talent. Canjar had something even more simple in mind — doing their best work at that moment. Thanks to their relationship with Eric and Ian Ritter at The Windmill Agency Studio, Nowhere Slow was able to enter the studio for some pre-production work, which was when a lot of the songs took shape.

"Cooperating is the best term for it," Canjar said. "That's my favorite thing to do being in a band, that creative part of it, having an idea and having all the parts in there and having it come together."

"That's the cool thing, too — (the songs) always change," Gillette added. "When you're taking a song and you're giving it to three other



guys to put their part on it, it's getting changed."

*Listen/Love* is also the first album for the band's current lineup. Kester — who was unavailable when we met with the other three band members — came on full-time back in February and Canjar came into the fold three years ago while their previous album, *Stranger in the Alps*, was in the works. It's a lineup that clearly benefits Nowhere Slow's sound, with Kester able to wear many hats behind the drum kit.

"He can be a rock drummer, he can be a reggae drummer. It's cool to have him be able to play any type of music," Gillette said of Kester's wide range of styles.

Many of the songs on *Listen/Love* deal with relationships in some manner, whether it's a break up ("Miss U" and "Go Away"), a hook-up ("Hard to Believe") or simply love ("Blue Eyed Boy"). Gillette writes most of the lyrics with help from Canjar, but it's Claus who may have the best viewpoint of how the meaning of each song takes shape.

"That was one of the first songs that was done in the studio and it was neat to see that that's where the album was going," Claus said. "You talk about bands maturing. You're not in high school or college anymore. You have a new way of looking at the world."

Canjar was hooked on the song even quicker, saying, "If the entire song was shit except the one lyric, I would play it for the one lyric of 'Would it even make me proud to see them lower him into the ground?' That was the line that got me for that song. That was poignant to me because it didn't judge, but it captured that feeling of empathy for someone else who has to lose their son or daughter."

With powerful riffs and pounding rhythms, "Miss U" is also a song that reaches a whole new level in a live setting. While many of Nowhere Slow's shows are dominated by cover songs — often at the request of the venue — *Listen/Love* is an album that should be heard in a live setting as well as the disc itself.

Production of the album took a little bit longer than expected — it was mastered at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London, which required some time to get the songs just how the band wanted them. But even though the album was originally planned for a summer release, there's little doubt *Listen/Love* was well worth the extra wait.

"We didn't want to make a hit song and just have an album (around it). We wanted to make an album and have an album in its entirety," Gillette said before Canjar quickly added, "Don't get me wrong, if we can get a hit out of it ..."

That led to chuckles all around; of course, what band doesn't want a hit single? It may be too early to tell if Nowhere Slow is on that path with any of the songs on *Listen/Love*, but if this latest release is any indication, they're not too far off.

"I just shelved it because it was so cliché to write about it," he said. "Every country artist was writing about it."  
"I'm not afraid to say that (9/11) really scared the shit out of me. When it happened, it was just unbelievable. But I don't like preaching. I don't know if anyone's right or wrong. It's not a preachy song and it's not meant to be preachy. It's more uncertain, hoping someone will come along and fix all of this."

It didn't take any convincing by Gillette for the others to jump at recording the song, either.

*Listen/Love* is available at all Gallery of Sound locations, iTunes and online at [cduniverse.com](http://cduniverse.com) and [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com). For more information on Nowhere Slow, visit [www.nowhereslow.com](http://www.nowhereslow.com) or check them out on Facebook.

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EVER MAGENTA YELLOW

Will Claus -- Will@NowhereSlow.com -- (570) 470-4658

# Nowhere Slow Input List

1. Kick\*
2. Snare\*
3. Hi-Hat\*
4. Rack Tom\*
5. Floor Tom 1\*
6. Floor Tom 2\*
7. Overhead Left
8. Overhead Right
9. Bass DI
10. Stage Right Electric Guitar
11. Acoustic Guitar DI
12. Stage Right Vocal
13. Center Vocal\*
14. Stage Left Vocal

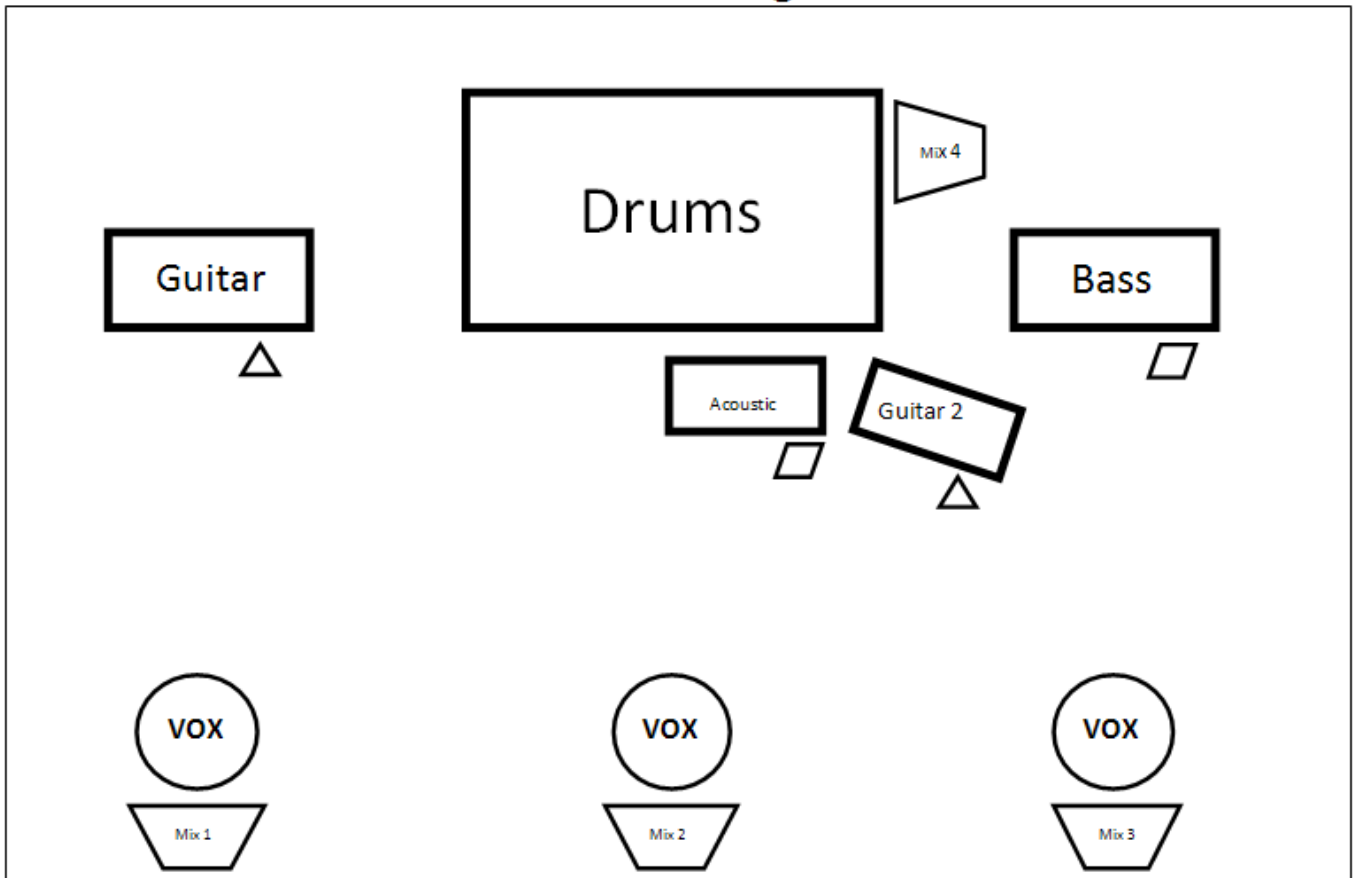
## Notes –

- Any item with an (\*) denotes provided mic. Kick, Rack, and Floor Toms have internal mics. Drum overheads are optional depending on venue size.
- Power drops – One at each amp and one upstage right for guitar effect pedals.
- Nowhere Slow travels with two 6'x6' Amp Masks that will be placed on either side of drums depending on venue. Nowhere Slow also travels with own lighting technician and on special occasion a sound engineer. Nowhere Slow will also setup an on-site merchandise table to sell T-Shirts and CDs.

Please contact Matt Kester with any additional technical questions. Contact info is listed below:

**Matt Kester**  
**(570) 905-5151**  
**matt@nowhereslow.com**

# Nowhere Slow Stage Plot



Monitor  
 Instrument  
 Vocal Mic  
 Instrument Mic  
 Direct Box

**Technical Contact:**  
 Matt Kester  
 (570)905-5141  
 matt@nowhereslow.com

Will Clauss -- Will@NowhereSlow.com -- (570) 470-4658