



# Kenny Luck & Phil Yurkon

## Are Keeping It Real

– By Allison Mowatt

Two men in their late 20s are keeping it real and making music *they* love, not necessarily what you'd expect to hear from young male musicians. The music duo, Kenny Luck of Wilkes-Barre and Phil Yurkon of the Philadelphia area, prefers jamming out adult contemporary pop tunes rather than loud and aggressive rock music.

"We just want to make a song that has a catchy melody," said Phil. "We're not looking to make any political statements with our music."

After meeting in spring 2004, Kenny, 26, and Phil, 29, quickly found a musical soulmate in the other and bonded over their shared respect and love of playing jazzy, pop influenced R&B tunes. They blended these genres into their own unique sound and created and developed songs of their own.

Kenny and Phil's music is a smooth blend of groovy rhythms, jazzy chord progressions, and infectious vocal hooks with memorable melodies that stick in your head well after the song is over. To them, music is a social art form, and they use complex chord structures while having fun layering synth sounds.

Kenny and Phil are songwriters, guitarists, and vocalists. Kenny, who has been a musician since he was eleven years old, sings lead vocals and Phil, who has played guitar for twelve years, also plays percussion and is the drum coordinator.

Their musical influences come from pop, funk, rock, and jazz and their personal music tastes range from Steely Dan and Sting to Jamiroquai and Maroon 5. "I'm a fan of songs," Kenny stated simply. He enjoys music of all genres and time periods. "The individualized aspect of the songs is what I really relate to. I can listen to a pop song on the radio and then a classical

song and like both equally," Kenny said. Phil also appreciates all styles of music and "a good groove" is what really inspires him.

In March of 2008, Kenny and Phil began recording a four song demo that included melodious songs such as "Kinda Frequently" and "Lucky," which both got occasional airplay on Northeastern Pennsylvania radio station 102.3 FM. Other songs on the four track demo, which was released in June 2008, included "Right Now Love" and "Killer Groove." All of these four songs appear on their recently released ten song album, which is available online through various social networks like MySpace. In the future, they hope to get it signed by an independent record label. "Finishing this album has been a breath of fresh air," said Phil.

The new release comes from a more mature point of view, and their music has evolved into a more pop oriented sound with additional synthesizers. "The basic pop structure of the songs stayed the same, but it's more polished and professional sounding," said Phil.

Primarily a studio act for the past two years, the duo hopes to play live locally this summer and fall, but other obligations are keeping them out of the music venues for the time being. "We currently don't play live because we live quite a distance apart, and we've both been busy finishing up school," explained Kenny.

Creating the songs themselves is an organic process for Kenny and Phil. They let the music come first by experimenting on the guitar until something catches their attention, and then they add lyrics on top of that. "We get a melody going with some background vocals and synthesizers, and it pretty much flows from there," explained Phil.

"I approach songwriting and making music from the formal, technical aspect of composition," said Kenny. "For me, the content of the songs isn't what is most important. What excites me is fitting the pieces of the puzzle together—the logical process of making music," he said.

Despite the fact that one lives in Wilkes-Barre and the other near Philadelphia, Kenny and Phil write, record, collaborate, practice, and play together whenever they can. The duo not only has an intelligence about songwriting, but they are also savvy about the recording process. In order to translate their sound onto a disc for people to hear, they spend a lot of time together in a full service studio owned by Alexander Paul, Double-A Productions in Elysburg, Pa. "The studio is more than just a tool for us; it's also an instrument," said Phil.

Kenny and Phil hope to have a second full length album out by next summer. Their music can be heard through their myspace page [www.myspace.com/kennyphil](http://www.myspace.com/kennyphil).

## wildflower music festival 2010



An outdoor festival located on the grounds of the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary, Long Ridge Road, White Mills, PA (between Honesdale & Hawley)

Performances subject to change without notice.

### SPECTRUM BRASS QUINTET

*Patriotic Rhythms*

Saturday, July 3, 6 p.m. • \$20

### MAX ZORIN

*Violin Virtuoso*

Saturday, July 10, 6 p.m. • \$20

### CHRIS BRUBECK'S TRIPLE PLAY

*Easy Jazz*

Saturday, July 17, 6 p.m. • \$20

### MUSIC OF THE PLATTERS

*Classic Doo-Wop*

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### AN EVENING WITH CRYSTAL GAYLE

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Special Ticket Required

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### MICHAEL CLEVELAND & FLAMETHROWER

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### LAURIE KRAUZ & THE DARYL KOJAK BAND

*Theater to Jazz Songstress*

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### FREE CONCERT

Sunday, July 18, 4 p.m.

*Wildflower Steppingstones*

*Young Artist Concert*

Featuring students from PSU

Also FREE Admission to

Dorflinger Glass Museum 1-4pm

In the event of inclement weather, performances are at the air-conditioned auditorium of the Wallenpaupack High School, Hawley, PA

Order online

[www.wildflowermusic.org](http://www.wildflowermusic.org)

Charge tickets by phone: 570-253-5500

General admission tickets can be purchased on the evening of the performance.

**TICKETS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.**