

Sandwich dreams turn out incredible

By Chris Starrs | Correspondent | Story updated at 6:45 pm on 4/21/2009

The Incredible Sandwich

When: 10 p.m. Saturday

Where: Georgia Theatre, 215 N. Lumpkin St.

Many is the night Matt McKinney watched some of his favorite musicians perform their sets at the Georgia Theatre, with only a dream he and his colleagues in The Incredible Sandwich might one day be on that same stage.

That dream soon transitions into reality as "the Sandwich," as it's known by friends and fans, will play its first date at the august Theatre on Saturday to celebrate the release of its self-titled debut EP on Mule Train Records.

"It's kind of surreal that we'll actually be playing there," says guitarist-vocalist McKinney, who will be joined by bandmates Rackley Davis (drums), Kevin Juneau (bass) and Damien Kapcala (keyboards) at the post-Twilight Criterium concert. "The Georgia Theatre is such a great venue, and we're overwhelmed to be playing there."

Together for approximately a year, The Incredible Sandwich has made quick progress with its friendly and familiar blend of rock, funk, jazz, Latin and jam-band sensibilities.

"A friend once described our sound as 'genre-bending jam-based boogie,' and we like that," says McKinney, a Cordele native who earned a degree in music composition at Georgia Southern University before moving to Athens 18 months ago. "Sometimes I'll write a pop song, or a rock song, or even a classical piece - I just try to keep myself out of the way of the music. People have been really responsive to what we're doing, which says to me that they're open-minded and willing to listen."

The Incredible Sandwich began life as a trio, but McKinney says that the addition several months ago of Kapcala (a Maryland native who previously has played with Lost Cat, Sonic Boom, Lionz, Soul Patch, Betsy Franck and the Bareknuckle Band, Theolonius and Fiasco) helped the group move into a different realm.

The Incredible Sandwich has a packed schedule for the spring, with visits throughout the state and region.

"It's like a dream - playing music on a constant basis," McKinney says. And in days, the dream of the Georgia Theatre manifests itself, too.

"I don't know that I ever thought I'd get the opportunity to play where so many great people have played. It's kind of surreal to think you'll be on the same stage," McKinney says.

"I'm a Georgia boy, and so are Rackley and Kevin, so Athens is like a big city to us, and the Georgia Theatre is the place to play. I love Widespread Panic and Michael Houser, and I'm excited we'll be playing in a place that has been so important to them. Once we get all set up, I'm going to take about an hour to let it all soak in so I can grasp what's really happening."