

Noah: So this is Jelly Sauce, a seven piece band from Colby College... wait, what would you guys describe yourselves as? Would you say funk? Jazz?

Jake: I think I'm justified in saying this, but I'd say that Jelly Sauce is a jam band.

Noah: Ok.

Tanner: Reggae-funk. A little reggae-funk.

Noah: Ok, so jam band / reggae funk? Ok.

Ben: *(faintly)* You can't define us.

Jake: Do you get the joke though? We're a jam band... called Jelly Sauce...

Fuma: Sick.

(laughter)

Noah: So how did you guys get involved with the CMI?

(uneasy silence)

Noah: Ok, so the Colby Music Incubator is the space that we are in. How did you guys get involved with it?

Fuma: It was started this year and many of us were in it from the ground floor. A lot of us decided that it would be a good place to play and have access to instruments, and it was indeed. It was a good place to play in, so we started doing it and we continue to do so today.

Ben: I didn't join the CMI until... probably since I had been playing for two months, so I had been using a lot of the equipment for a long time without being a part of [the CMI].

Aaron: I'm actually not officially a part of the CMI. I haven't paid my dues, so I should probably do that. I just keep my trumpet in here.

(Radio DJ walks in to ask Tom a question about radio stuff)

Tanner: Well, I joined the CMI because I played the bongos for a while with some people in this room. Then Tom Crisp was like “Hey, you should play drums for Tonic Engine,” and then I did that for a while. Then Jelly Sauce became something and then I couldn’t play the drums anymore. But I still paid my dues before I could not play the drums anymore. So I’m basically just a trust fund. I give you money and I get nothing in return.

(laughter)

Jake: *(clears throat)* I remember the first weekend that Tom brought me to this room. It was a mess; there was trash everywhere. I remember him saying something about it at the first meeting of the CMI (at least this semester, I don’t know what it was like last year.) I remember him talking about how we had to... clear out the room... *(breaks down into hysterics)*

Ben: Sick, Jake.

(laughter)

Noah: So, uh-

Jake: Wait, wait... And I came back a month later... *(breaks down into laughter)*

Tom: Is this how you do essay prompts, Jake?

(laughter)

Noah: So I know there is a rule with the CMI that you can use the space without paying your dues. Would you guys say that that’s definitely been beneficial? Especially for the kids who, like, didn’t pay at first?

Tanner: *(directed at Ben)* I think you’re qualified to answer that one, Peters.

Ben: Yeah, I mean, pretty much. It was definitely worth it... *(directed at Noah)* I don’t know where you want me to go from that.

Noah: No, I’m just saying do you think you’ve used it more or less since then?

Ben: Since paying?

Noah: Yeah.

Ben: Probably the same amount, honestly.

Noah: That's good.

Ben: I mean, honestly, probably what's a lot better, having paid, is the access to the room whenever I want it. So, like, I don't have to wait for Tom or, like, any of the other people who actually are a part of it to come play. Now I can just grab a key and then play on my own, which is something I want to do a lot of the time.

Noah: That's awesome.

Jake: *(still hysterical)* So after Tom cleaned out the room, that's when I paid my dues and *(suddenly reverts to a normal speaking tone)* it's been great since then, actually. It's been a wonderful room. But I really don't know what it's like to not have paid. I have been a paying member from the beginning. I bought into the "two semesters for price of one and a half" package... I don't really have anything else useful to say so...

Fuma: I would corroborate that.

Aaron: I still haven't paid, which I probably should, but I, like, I think I should pay, and I'm gonna pay. I'm involved with two bands that are involved in the CMI and the more involved that I've gotten with the bands, the more time I've spent in here, and since I don't have the access, it's a little a more difficult. Once I have that access, I'll probably be in here more. For me, it's been more of a process of getting involved in the music culture on campus first before paying those dues, I guess.

Tanner: So, I paid my dues so I could play the drums. When I was able to play the drums, I was coming in here every day. Maybe every day or every other day. Since I have not been able to play the drums, I don't really come down here often, unless we're making sauce. Um... do you have your own mic, Tom?

Tom: Yeah, I do have my own mic.

Tanner: Tom, you should speak.

Ben: *(faintly)* Tom, are you on Noah's team, or are you on our team?

Tom: I'm firmly Team Noah.

Tanner: Let's strike that from the record.

Tom: ...what was the question?

Aaron: *(faintly)* Oh my god.

Noah: Do you find that you've used the space more or less since you've paid your dues?

Tom: So, since I cleaned out all the trash, much to Jake's delight, I found that paying my dues, whilst ultimately unnecessary, I found that, to be a team player, it would be smart to pay my dues, and so I did that. Since I have paid my dues, I've probably have used the room just as much as before I was paying the dues. I'm down here just about every day.

Fuma: You have to pay the toll troll to get into the boy's hole.

Tom: I second that. Firmly.

Tanner: Now, is that the boy's soul or the boy's hole?

(laughter)

Noah: So why do you guys use this space, in comparison? There's a lot of spaces on campus.

Ben: *(faintly)* It's small.

Tanner: Ben Peters says it's small.

Ben: *(faintly)* The better way to say it is it's intimate.

Tanner: The better way to say it is it's intimate-

Ben: Yes, there it is. Thank you.

Tanner: -and we can all make sauce within a very close proximity to each other. I think that, um, I think that intimacy generally leads to frothier sauce and a... I don't know... headier type of sauce.

Fuma: I actually think it's more, like you said that there a lot of spaces on campus, but I actually find that there aren't a lot of spaces like this. You know, it has its size and its location, but I also think that the access to tools that you have, including a lot of amplifiers, a drum machine, a keyboard. There's hardly a lot of places where that can all come together, and there's hardly a lot of places where people like this can come together, which is really cool. I think it's probably the uniqueness of this place that brings me here.

Noah: Real quick: Why do you think this place makes it easier for people to come together? I know you said all of that, but do you think there's anything else that makes it unique?

Fuma: Well, I think having our weekly meetings every week. I, like, see a lot of new faces there that I wouldn't have met otherwise. I know when it was kinda just me and a few other people in this room just jamming around, it was in this room just because we were hanging around in here, and we built that connection out of having the space.

Noah: So if no one else has anything to say, uh, how did you guys, you know, jam out, play funk, or do whatever sort of playing music before this space existed?

Fuma: I mean, mostly in our our rooms with bongos and acoustic. There was very little electric jamming before this.

Ben: *(faintly)* It wasn't nearly as fun.

Aaron: I didn't even play, like, very rarely before this space at all, especially, like, playing a trumpet. There's the practice rooms on campus, but I don't want to go all the way there, and the acoustics aren't great, and it's a weird space. I can't play in the dorm at all unless people want to kill me.

Tom: I did play in the dorm for a while and still continue to do so, though less frequently because this space is now available. This space also definitely arose from the fact that there really was no other place to kind of jam loudly 24/7, 365, which is exactly what this space offers.

Noah: Cool. And in general, what kind of role do you think the CMI plays in your general Colby experience? How do you think- when you sort of view your week now, or so, or just how you look at Colby, how does this place play into that?

Tanner: I think the biggest difference is, before the CMI, none of us were in a band that performed in front of people on the weekends, and now we do. So, like, being in a band is definitely pretty fun. Fuma looks like he wants to say something.

Fuma: What was the question?

Noah: How do you think that-

Fuma: Oh! I mean, I think it's a social hub like any other social club or place on campus. I know when this place was starting out, a metaphor we used was for this place to be like the Outing Club of Music, and, so, in some ways, it kind of is. People can come together every week and at least, like, talk about both the future of the club and get to know each other and there's also just being able to use this space for the purposes that we all have neutral interests. So it's just that like when I think about playing music at Colby, which is a big part of my life, I mostly think about it here.

Ben: Yeah, like, Fuma's really talked a lot about how the space facilitates friendship.

Noah: Aw.

Ben: Nah, like, it's a really good place for people to come together, mutual interests and all, but a lot of the time, for me, I like it as a- it's a space that I really like to be private a lot of the time. I like to just come here and, like, be able to play guitar and sing, and then, like, not really think about Colby at all. And then... something else... I can't remember... what I was gonna say... Yeah, no, it's really cool though how, like, music has always been, like, a really big part of my life and music has always been a really big part of- *(at Noah)* you good?

Noah: Yeah.

Ben: -a big part of my life and I didn't really play that much on my own. Like I have my acoustic guitar but I found that I would go long periods of time without playing. This has, like, made it so that I pretty much play most days of the week, which is pretty sick.

Jake: Yeah, I would say that the CMI has had a huge impact on my musical involvement at Colby. Last year, I wouldn't say I was involved, really, musically at all, except for the Jan Plan course I took. I had some hope from that, but then it just died off. It's really exciting to be a part of a group that sort of shares my interests.

Noah: Cool. I guess something real quick to go back to: what Ben was saying about how you can sort of forget about Colby. Does this feel like a part of Colby or does it feel separate? I know this kind of goes off the question before, but in viewing your Colby experience, does this at all seem separated?

Ben: Yeah, I'd like to change how I said that because I definitely think that this is huge part of Colby for me. Yeah, no, it's not- it's just forgetting about so much shit that just kind of stresses you out at Colby. This is just a nice aspect that you really just don't have to think too much about or you don't have to think too much when you're here.

Aaron: Yeah, I don't know, going to a university, there can be a lot of social stresses because it's such a social environment. Whether or not it's stressful or not, it's such a part of your life. But here, even though people are hanging out, it's different because it's more about the music than arbitrary things that are going on around campus. Arbitrary things that people are talking about, you know? To have all people genuinely interested in one thing is really nice and... yeah, I don't know. It definitely, like, is a cathartic way to step back and still remain and... yeah, good community.

Tanner: I also think it's cool that, like what Aaron said, we can step back from social pressures and, like, do things on our own, but on our own as a group. That shared goal of achieving a certain sound that can be brought to other people to make them dance and make them happy on the weekends is, I think, pretty powerful.

Ben: This is the first time I've ever performed playing, and I loved performing.

Tanner: Yeah, and I didn't sing before this semester. Not, like, in any official capacity, so it's really cool to be able to do that, and it's cool to be able to discover new passions. It's definitely a new passion of mine.

Tom: I completely agree. It's really nice to have this space, and, you know, that's why it's called the music incubator. It's a space where not only there are resources for the musicians but it helps music to grow and helps musical groups find what they need such that they can go above and beyond what would happen if you were just doing this out of a dorm room. For me, a really big part of my Colby experience has been trying to seek out the people that are really interested in improving the music culture on campus here. The incubator is really where all of that starts.

Noah: That's awesome. In the future, hopefully, the CMI remains an institution here for a while. How would you want it be going forward? What would you change? What do you want for the future of the CMI?

Tanner: An acoustic drum set I think would be dope.

Ben: *(faintly)* A six-string bass.

Tanner: A six string bass would be dope. But I kind of like how it's not like the outing club where you get 70 people showing up to the meetings, regardless of their level of involvement. I don't regularly attend the meetings, but I still consider myself a part of the club. I was nothing before this club but now I am something. Musically.

Tom: You've been incubated.

Tanner: I've been incubated. I'm a hatched egg! I was a wee egg.

Ben: *(faintly)* You are grown. You are a large duck.

Fuma: We need women.

Aaron: Like female musicians.

Fuma: Like any girl to know that this room exists. It's kind of a boys club. I think that it's still fun but I think we're missing out on not having the opposite gender here.

Noah: So would you say, like, diversity-

Fuma: Yes, because it's diversity, and also, like, I like girls' voices when they sing. It's fun to listen to. I want more of that.

Noah: And playing instruments.

Fuma: And playing instruments, but, like, a girl playing the guitar sounds the same as a guy playing the guitar. You wouldn't know the difference. *(interrupted by laughter)* Wait... we need the people who are at Colby who like music and don't know that this club exists to know it exists.

Noah: I have a few personal questions, I guess. How did you guys- how did we form?

Aaron: I got a ton of texts from people.

Tanner: The question is how did Jelly Sauce become a thing. I kind of talked on this earlier. I was playing the bongos with some people in this room including Fuma and Peters and Hagler... were you there, Tom? Yeah, maybe. I was playing the bongos and then Tom was like "Hey you can keep a rhythm" or Fuma was like "Hey you can keep a rhythm" and then I guess [Fuma] told Tom that. Tom was looking for a percussionist for his band and then I was like "OK, I can try the

drumset” and then I would just text, like, people, primarily Tom, Fuma, Hagler, and Peters, and be like “Hey, do you guys wanna come jam?” It would be me and two or three other people and we’d come jam down here and I think all of us really liked that because none of us had really jammed in that capacity with a drummer before. I think that was a big part of it; having the drums. It’s something you can’t do in a dorm room with acoustic guitars or, like, that kind of sense. Then- I don’t know. That was kind of the start of it. Just, like, texting each other. People would come up. We’d jam. There wasn’t a lot of singing at first. Then I hurt myself. Then Noah came in. Then Aaron came in. Then we had DogHead, which was our first real thing. We practiced a lot for that. We played a really good show. Now, we have shows next Friday and next next Friday... next Friday, next next Friday, and next next next Friday.

Noah: By the time this comes out, it’ll be three Fridays ago, two Fridays ago, and one Friday ago.

Tanner: Sure.

Ben: That’s pretty much the gist.