

Inside **THEVAULT**

MUSIC & COMMUNITY CONNECTED

VOLUME 2

OUR NEW
**DOLBY ATMOS
MIX ROOM**

P. 03

**THE OCEAN –
FIVE YEARS**

A MUSICAL JOURNEY

P. 09



THEVAULT
RECORDING STUDIO

Ryan McCutcheon
RHYTHM19FUND

FROM THE FOUNDER



WELCOME TO OUR WORLD OF MUSIC, CREATIVITY, & COMMUNITY!

We are thrilled to bring you the second edition of Inside The Vault! More than just a studio, The Vault is a community of passionate artists, industry professionals, and music lovers—a place where creativity and ideas come to life, and where the local music scene can thrive.

At The Vault, we believe music is more than just art; it’s an experience, a journey, and a shared passion. That’s why we’ve built an ecosystem where artists, educators, and supporters can connect, grow, and elevate their craft. From our world-class gear to our award-winning team, every aspect of The Vault is designed to inspire.

Our impact goes beyond the studio. Through The Rhythm19 Fund and programs like Music Makers summer camp, High School Jazz Days, and school-based field trips, we’re empowering the next generation of musicians. And by supporting initiatives like Women Who Rock, we’re amplifying voices and helping to break barriers in the industry.

Vault Records, our independent label, champions local talent by providing artists with resources that extend beyond production. Our industry knowledge and experience support not just the label but our clients, collaborators and students, as well.

This publication is your inside look at the people, projects, and progress happening at The Vault. We continue to grow and expand, and we invite you to be part of the journey. Follow, subscribe, and reach out—we’d love to hear from you!

Robert W. McCutcheon
Bob McCutcheon
Founder & President

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"Where Words Fail, Music Speaks"

Cover image by Jody Mader Photography.
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MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE VAULT



BOB MCCUTCHEON
Founder and President
Producer and Engineer

In 1987, Bob started his first recording studio, "Alternative Studio" in his mother's basement. He worked his way through college engineering and producing local Pittsburgh bands. After graduating from Robert Morris University with a degree in business and finance, he pursued a 28 year career with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, ultimately retiring as Managing Partner—but he always followed his passion and continued to play, write and record music.

Inspired by their love of music, Bob, his wife Dana and their two sons Ryan and Brett embarked on a journey to create something more than just a recording studio. They envisioned a new and vibrant space where musicians of all kinds could connect, co-create, record and promote their music.

They purchased the old bank building on Neville Island and hired Los Angeles based Yanchar Design and Consulting Group, a premier design firm specializing in the design of high-end recording and post- production facilities.

In 2016 construction was complete and The Vault was opened as a private studio. The record label (Vault Records) was established in 2017 with the signing of our first artist, Chris Jamison, and The Ryan McCutcheon Rhythm19 Fund was established in early 2018, shortly after his passing in September 2017. With the addition of Jimmy Hoyson, the acquisition of the vintage Neve 8058 and Bob's retirement from PricewaterhouseCoopers, The Vault began commercial operations in 2018.



JIMMY HOYSON
Chief Engineer
6-time Grammy Winning
Engineer and Producer

After graduating from The University of Pittsburgh, Hoyson moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music. With little more than his guitar and \$100 in his pocket, he stayed with a friend in LA, where he was ultimately introduced to the owner of The Village Recording, who liked his tenacity and soon offered Hoyson an entry-level position.

Day one at Village Studios, he found himself in the editing room with David Byrne finishing the opening of True Stories. His hard work, easy demeanor and impeccable ear elevated him from getting coffee for artists to working in the studio at Village, 7th Level, Signet Studios and Capital Studios.

His clients continue to be an endless list of renowned and upcoming artists. From Warrant, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Goo Goo Dolls, Michael Jackson, Iggy Pop and Green Day to Lou Reed, Eric Clapton and B.B. King. In addition, he has extensive experience working on film and television scores, 7th Heaven, Ugly Betty, 8 Simple Rules, The Wedding Singer, Ace Ventura and Walk the Line to name a few.

Hoyson returned to his native Pittsburgh as Chief Engineer at The Vault Recording Studio and travels internationally as a freelance producer.



DANA MCCUTCHEON
Studio Manager

A frequent and familiar face to everyone at The Vault, Dana is involved with many of the operational aspects of the studio as well as leading our efforts with The Rhythm19 Fund.



BRETT MCCUTCHEON
Arranger, Educator

While focusing principally as a music educator at Mt Lebanon High School, Brett is also a multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer and recording artist. In addition to writing and recording his own work, he has written, arranged and performed as a session player for a number of Vault artists. He also assists in managing our efforts at The Rhythm19 Fund.



ROB DEANER
(V6 MUSIC + POST)
Composer, Producer,
Engineer

Rob Deaner, veteran composer, producer, engineer, and sound designer has decades of experience making music in Pittsburgh, New York, and Nashville. He has spent the better part of the last two decades producing bands and working with advertising agencies, corporations & film productions, creating soundscapes & compositions. Previously running both Market Street Sound & Contagious Music, Deaner has now re-branded his firm as V6 Music + Post, which is now located in Studio B at The Vault.



BRIAN AMMON
Engineer

A Pittsburgh native, Brian is a guitarist and recording engineer. He has an intimate knowledge of the studio, mics, patch-bay and signal flow. Since 2018, he has assisted all of our engineers and producers across a wide range and sessions, and leads his own projects as engineer across multiple genre.



DAVE HILLIS
Multi-Platinum Producer
and Engineer

After signing his first record label deal at the tender age of 17, as a guitarist and writer with legendary thrash metal band MACE, Dave set his sights on the production and engineering side of the music business, where he was engineer for legendary producer Rick Parashar, at London Bridge Studios, Seattle, where he engineered Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, and Candlebox, to name a few. Now living in Pittsburgh, Dave is available as a Producer and Engineer at the Vault Recording Studios.

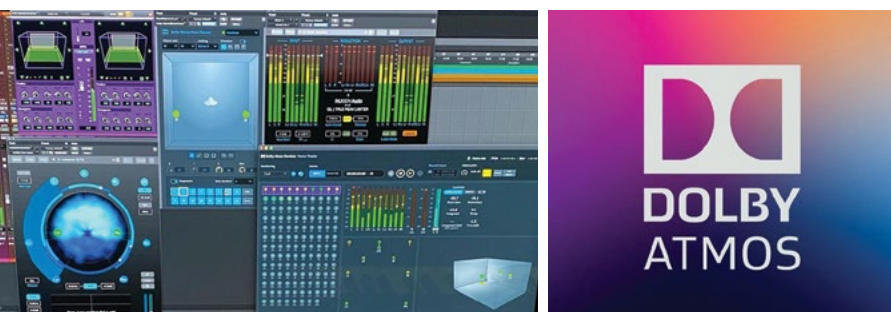


ANTHONY "ROCKY" LAMONDE
Producer, Engineer

A Pittsburgh native, Rocky began his musical career after graduating from CAPA – Creative and Performing Arts school. He has a longer career as a performing artist with bands Torn n' Frayed, The Dirty Charms and most recently The Borstal Boys on The Vault Records, where he also co-produced several albums.

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Volume 2
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DOLBY ATMOS MIX ROOM



Responding to the industry shift towards music in Spatial Audio and the growing need for audio and music for use in virtual reality, gaming and Atmos cinematic placement, Bob began experimenting with the technology as early as 2020 with a 7.1.2 beta setup in his mix room.

With Apple Music's launch of Spatial Audio in June of 2021 it became apparent that the industry was moving quickly. Apple then announced incentives to distribute music through the Spatial Audio platform with increased royalties for music delivered in Spatial Audio format. That was followed by the launch of Dolby Atmos for in-car audio systems by Mercedes-Benz and Lotus using the Amazon Music App, as well as Dolby Atmos FlexConnect that enables smart TV's,

Dell adding the capability to a number of its new gaming consoles and the launch of the Apple Vision Pro.

Dolby Atmos is essentially the next generation of surround sound where music can now be distributed within a three-dimensional space by including the "height" speakers. The technology also allows for the conversion/downmix back to 5.1, traditional stereo and even binaural audio for headphones. Beyond the technical aspects of Spatial Audio, the experience of sitting in the room and being fully immersed in some of your favorite music in this format is transformative. Now you can also experience your own music in Atmos thanks to our new capability at The Vault!

MUSIC MAKERS SUMMER CAMP WITH LUMINARI

There are few things more powerful and emotionally rewarding than musicians creating and producing music together and sharing their influential messages locally, nationally, and internationally. It's interactive. It's inclusive. It's liberating.

The Vault and The Rhythm19 Fund sponsor a 5-day camp with Luminari, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit founded to foster activities that broaden minds, inspire innovation and promote community engagement. For rising 8th-12th graders, Music Makers provides aspiring musicians, engineers, producers, and music lovers at all levels with access to a world-class recording studio and an award-winning team of artists, educators, producers, engineers, and music executives.

During the one week session, campers will have the opportunity to create, produce and record original music together, while also learning more about how a record label works and the business of distributing and marketing music.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

THE CORE OF OUR MISSION IS CENTERED ON COMMUNITY.

We focus on forming collaborations that collectively support and foster community. By convening organizations, groups and individuals that help bring unique and complimentary skills, we help grow and support the overall music scene.

Together we all rise with the tide. We are always seeking new and complimentary relationships in the areas of music and film, as well as partnerships that have a focus or emphasis on youth education and development.



SOME OF OUR FRIENDS & COLLABORATORS INCLUDE:

- Amelia Project
- Band Together
- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Flying Scooter Productions
- Hellbender Vinyl
- Luminari
- Manchester Craftsman's Guild/MCG Jazz
- Magee Women's Research Institute
- Mighty Oak Adventures w/ Brett Keisel
- Music From The 412
- Musicians of the PSO
- Penn West University (California Campus)
- Pittsburgh Today Live
- Prizum Creative
- Second Scene Magazine
- Sing Sing Sing
- Slippery Rock University
- SRU Jazz
- Star 100.7 FM
- The Beaver 95.7 FM
- The Lindsay Theater
- Three Rivers Winter Ensemble Association
- Women Who Rock
- WQED

**And the numerous local area school programs
supported by The Rhythm19 Fund.**

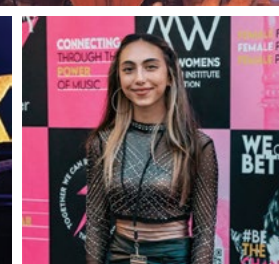
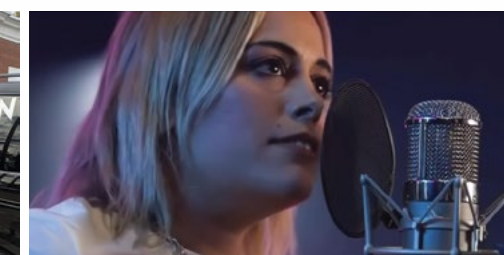


WOMEN WHO ROCK

**MAKING GREAT MUSIC.
MAKING MORE HISTORY.**

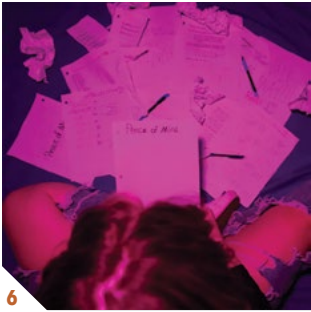
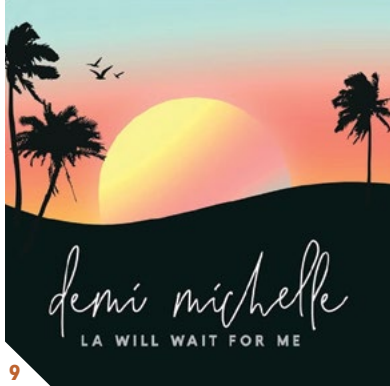
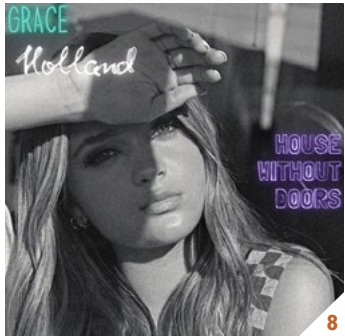
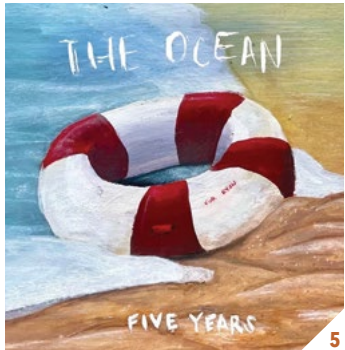
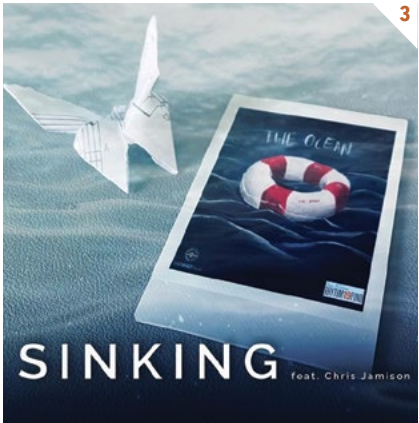
Women Who Rock® is a trailblazing, female-founded brand dedicated to supporting women in music, empowerment, and advocating for women's health. Through their dynamic range of initiatives, including pop-up events, global campaigns, and flagship benefit concerts featuring some of the brightest stars in music with a 100% female-fronted line-up, we strive to amplify the voices of women.

The Vault and The Rhythm19 Fund have been active sponsors of Women Who Rock since 2019. Annually, we support the concert at Stage AE benefiting Magee Women's Research Institute. In addition, we also sponsor the Women Who Rock Rising Star Contest for young female singer/songwriters. The winner each year gets to open the benefit concert at Stage AE and record a single at The Vault.



CELEBRATING THE ARTISTS & PROJECTS AT THE VAULT

We continue to be inspired by the amazing and diverse talent our region has to offer. We are blessed to continue our growth journey. This image wall demonstrates some of the amazing people that have worked with us over the last few years. We are humbled and eternally grateful to you all!



- 1 Sweet Heat, Royal Honey
- 2 King of the Underground, Bradley Scott Malone
- 3 Sinking, Brett McCutcheon & June Bracken Feat. Chris Jamison
- 4 Stuck in Between, Chalk Dinosaur
- 5 The Ocean - Five Years, Brett McCutcheon & June Bracken
- 6 Peace of Mind, Aleia Gabrielle
- 7 Chasing the Song, Domenic Fusca

- 8 House Without Doors, Grace Holland
- 9 LA Will Wait for Me, Demi Michelle
- 10 Puzzle Pieces, Chris Jamison
- 11 Stokin' the Heat, Giant's Causeway
- 12 Home, Katie Arrington
- 13 Skylines, Dave Hillis

- 14 Time Bomb, The Borstal Boys
- 15 Slippery Rock University Jazz
- 16 Hey Ellena, Ellie Irwin
- 17 Game, Stone Throwers
- 18 Tolerance Is Dead, 3 Leagues to Rome
- 19 Coastin' In, Eddie Manion
- 20 &, Slam Band and Sam
- 21 Summer 21, Kate Leland
- 22 Picture Frame, Maddie Josephine
- 23 Lost and Found, Princess Nostalgia
- 24 At Ease, Cat Tedder
- 25 Vinyl Scars, Matt Geiser
- 26 Too Much to Say, Rita
- 27 Finally Friday, Jason Kush
- 28 Rivers, Reggie Watkins
- 29 Nashville Soundcheck 4/13/24, The Company Picnic Vol.1
- 30 Dance Until the Sunrise, Valentina Cherico

THE OCEAN - FIVE YEARS

A MUSICAL JOURNEY
OF LOSS, GRIEF, & HOPE

Brett McCutcheon, unveiled his deeply moving project, *The Ocean - Five Years* on September 30, 2023.

It is a unique collection of pop songs with symphonic orchestration that takes listeners on an emotional journey through the stages of grief, offering solace and understanding to those navigating the complexities of loss. The story behind the music is the inspiration and centerpiece of a documentary short film set to release in 2025.

On the night of September 30, 2017, Brett McCutcheon's life changed forever. His older brother Ryan was tragically killed in a car accident. Just teenagers, the brothers shared an irreplaceable bond. Brett only spoke of his loss with a few close friends, but knew he needed to connect with his feelings. Instead of silently suffering, he began composing with his friend, June Bracken. *The Ocean* was born. Three songs analogous with the depths,



tumult and complexity of the sea, *The Ocean* spoke of the loss, grief and loneliness that engulfed his life. The music was released. Brett finished high school and went off to college. His grief never far from his view, his brother always present in the shadows.

Five years later, Brett no longer a teenager but a senior in college realizes his journey mirrors that of millions of kids who have experienced great loss. *The Ocean - Five Years* is that story. Built around the revised composition of the original release, it explores deeper meaning and understanding.

Still centered around June Bracken's vocal performance, the new music now includes symphonic performances by musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and also features NBC's The Voice Finalist, Chris Jamison. *The Album* moves through the crippling dependency of living through loss, to finding life among those that grieve, to knowing everything was always going to be okay.



The Ocean - Five Years is more than just an album. It is a testament to the universal nature of grief and the need for greater understanding and support. By sharing his personal story through music, Brett hopes to ignite a compassionate dialogue that fosters empathy and assistance for young individuals navigating the tumultuous seas of loss.

This project is intended to raise awareness and support for **The Ryan McCutcheon Rhythm19 Fund at The Pittsburgh Foundation**. In addition, Brett has partnered with **The Highmark Caring Place** and **WQED** to use the music and the documentary as inspiration, content and support to children and young adults facing their own grief journey.



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM

Following the release of the music, the McCutcheon family teamed with Flying Scooter Productions to tell share Brett's story in the form of a documentary short film. Under the creative direction of Jennifer Schlieper, the film delves into the complex and often overwhelming journey of grief, as seen through Brett's eyes as a young composer whose life was irrevocably changed by the sudden loss of his older brother, Ryan.

The film has received international recognition at numerous film festivals and is set to release in 2025, with the hopes of raising awareness about the unique and complex nature of child grief.



LISTEN NOW

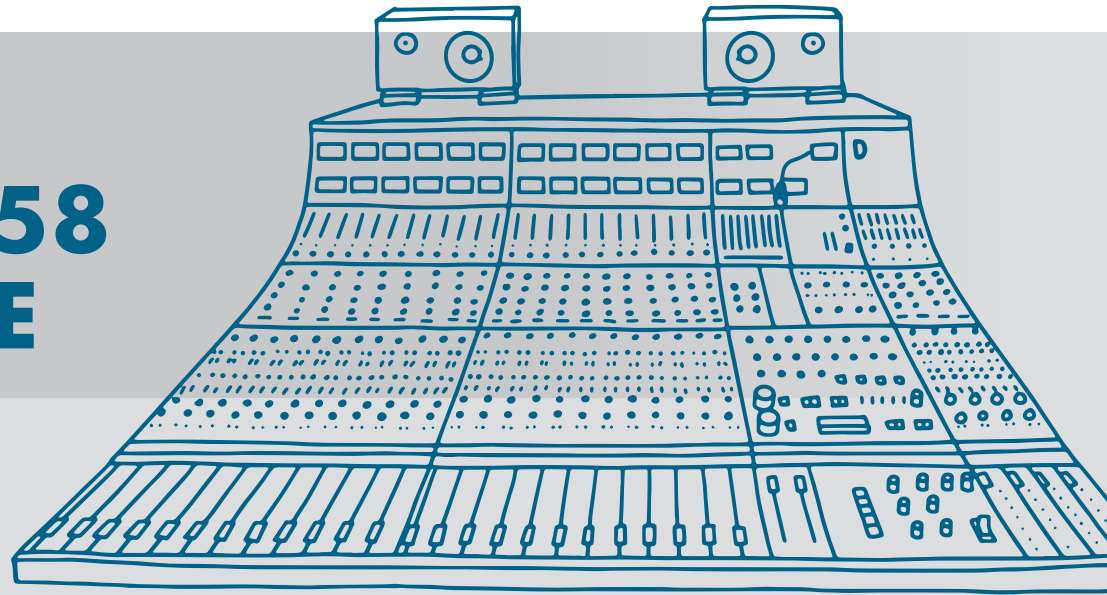
Scan to listen to
The Ocean - Five Years

THE VAULT™ GEAR REVIEW

VINTAGE NEVE 8058 CONSOLE

2017
RESTORED & COMPLETELY
RECONDITIONED BY VINTAGE
KING AUDIO IN 2017

ORIGINALLY OWNED BY
PETE DRAKE
RECORD PRODUCER & MUSICIAN



WHO WORKED WITH ARTISTS LIKE:

★ GEORGE HARRISON ★ BOB DYLAN ★ DOLLY PARTON
★ RINGO STARR ★ ERIC CLAPTON ★ ELVIS PRESLEY & MORE!



HOUSED & USED AT:
SCOTT LITT'S STUDIO
LOS ANGELES, CA

NOW:
**AT THE VAULT
RECORDING STUDIO**
PITTSBURGH, PA

ORIGINALLY HOUSED AT:
PETE DRAKE'S STUDIO
NASHVILLE, TN

THEN PURCHASED BY
**SCOTT
LITT**
RECORD PRODUCER
& ENGINEER

WHO WORKED WITH ARTISTS LIKE:

★ R.E.M.
★ NIRVANA
★ THE REPLACEMENTS
★ THE INDIGO GIRLS

'AIRY'
FULL-
BODIED
SOUND

THINK FLEETWOOD MAC • NIRVANA
PINK FLOYD • STEELY DAN
& MOST OF THE CLASSIC UK
RECORDINGS OF THE 1970S

**AT THE VAULT, OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP
AN ECOSYSTEM OF ENGINEERS, PRODUCERS
& ASPIRING ARTISTS IN BOTH MUSIC & FILM.**

By providing them access to a world-class recording facility, educational programs and industry resources, we will elevate the experience and enhance Pittsburgh's music industry profile on a global scale.

SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT OUR
STATE-OF-THE-ART
STUDIO GEAR
& EQUIPMENT



STUDER A800 Mkiii

RECORDING TO TAPE YIELDS SUBTLE
COLORATION & COMPRESSION THAT IS
WARM & COHESIVE

TAPE MACHINES ARE OFTEN
USED TODAY TO RECORD
THE SONIC QUALITIES OF
**DRUMS, BASS,
& GUITARS**



1978
MARKED A NEW GENERATION
OF PROFESSIONAL MULTI-
TRACK RECORDERS WHEN IT
WAS INTRODUCED IN 1978

**STUDIOS
AROUND
THE WORLD**

STILL RELY
ON THE
PERFORMANCE
& THE SOUND
OF ANALOGUE
MULTI-TRACK
RECORDERS

USED ON COUNTLESS PROJECTS, LIKE:

PEARL JAM
ALICE IN CHAINS
SOUNDGARDEN
BLIND MELON
3 DOORS DOWN

THEN: 1989-2000
**HOUSED AT THE FAMOUS
LONDON BRIDGE STUDIOS**
SEATTLE, WA

NOW:
**AT THE VAULT
RECORDING STUDIO**
PITTSBURGH, PA





On September 30, 2017, Ryan A. McCutcheon, 19, was killed in an automobile accident while returning to his college campus after assisting high school drum students at a local band festival. The Rhythm19 Fund was established by his family through The Pittsburgh Foundation to keep his spirit alive through music.

Ryan was an accomplished percussionist, a dedicated instructor and a mentor to high school and college students. Following his graduation from North Allegheny, Ryan attended Robert Morris University. He remained active musically, marching with Nomad Indoor Drumline, advising the drum line for the Hampton High School Marching Band and playing drums with his college friends in a rock band. He was also an active drummer at The Vault Recording Studio in Pittsburgh where he frequently played and recorded.

Ryan was a bright, light-hearted, funny and loving soul. He loved working with kids, playing music and teaching others.

The mission of The Rhythm19 Fund is to honor Ryan's memory by providing access to art and music education for children and youth.

Through charitable contributions and volunteerism, we provide access to music for children and encourage the use of music to enrich the lives of those with challenges or special needs. The fund also strongly encourages the continuation of music programs for school children.

We, in conjunction with The Rhythm19Fund, were active in fundraising, providing financial support and volunteering our time. As a result, we have awarded numerous high school scholarships, supported a number of local area music programs with equipment and even helped fund trips to music competitions. We also enjoyed hosting several high school and middle school field trips to The Vault.

To date, the fund has raised over \$250,000 to be used for scholarships to students, and grants to schools and not-for-profit arts programs in the region.



**SCAN TO DONATE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE RYAN MCCUTCHEON RHYTHM19 FUND**

**OUR SUPPORT FOR
ARTS ORGANIZATIONS
& MUSIC PROGRAMS
HAVE INCLUDED:**

- The Amelia Project
- Baldwin School District
- Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Elizabeth Forward School District
- Family Reach
- Gateway School District
- Hampton School District
- Kiski Area School District
- Knoch Area School District
- The Lindsay Theater
- Luminari
- Manchester Craftsman's Guild/MCG Jazz
- Magee Womens Research Institute
- Mars Area School District
- McKeesport School District
- Moon Area School District
- Mt Lebanon School District
- Musicians of The Pittsburgh Symphony/Musicians Care Fund
- The Neighborhood Academy
- Nomad Indoor Percussion
- North Allegheny School District
- National Independent Venues Association (NIVA)/COVID Emergency Relief Fund
- The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Penn-Trafford School District
- Plum Borough School District
- Shaler School District
- Sing Me A Story
- Slippery Rock University
- Sto-Rox School District
- Three Rivers Winter Ensemble Association
- The United Way of Southwestern PA / 211
- WQED

The Vault also hosted the legendary Smokey Robinson for two different Rhythm19 fundraising events over the years.





Ryan McCutcheon

RHYTHM19FUND

OUR MISSION:
To provide access to art & music education for children & youth



DONATE NOW
Help us drum up donations to continue our mission of enriching the lives of youth through art & music education.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM:



FLYING SCOOTER PRODUCTIONS

