

**MUSIC**



# Traveling band

## Time on the road helps give birth to Out For Hours

By Jennifer Wagner  
FOR REDEYE

Songwriters Frankie Monacella and Chris Ulrich have a history of traveling together.

Hailing from Riverside, they remember carpooling to soccer practice together as kids, though they weren't particularly close growing up.

They got reacquainted on a mission trip to Oklahoma City to aid victims after a May 1999 tornado outbreak. The two played guitar and sang to lift the spirits of the weary volunteers.

In the process, they discovered their own musical chemistry.

"We just started screwing around with the guitars at night, just playing a few tunes," Ulrich recalls. The experience inspired Monacella to write "The Tornado Song" for Out For Hours' full-length debut album, "Save Today Tomorrow."

Their band name was inspired by the spirit of the

journey as well, Ulrich explains.

"When you're on a road trip, the best feeling in the world is being in that back seat," he said. "Not driving, passed out, you've got the best tunes you could ever think of playing in the car and you're just out for hours."

Monacella adds that "out for hours" were "the first lyric[s] of the very first song we wrote together."

After a few years of writing and playing out together, Monacella and Ulrich decided it was time to expand their sound, which is where bassist Mark Vazquez and

drummer Paul Wilhelm came in. The transition from an all-acoustic band had a big effect on Monacella.

"Picking up the electric was like walking into a different country," he said.

The big switch was a fruitful one for the band, which now enjoys bigger shows and more local notoriety than ever.

"We love music, we love playing, we love performing, and we love the band," Ulrich says. "We've been getting better every time we play."

[ JENNIFER WAGNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. ]

### Out For Hours

**When:** 8 p.m. Aug. 14  
**Where:** Uncommon Ground,  
3800 N. Clark St.

## SNAP JUDGMENTS

IN STORES NOW

### Conor Oberst

This return to Conor Oberst's solo billing doesn't signal a radical reinvention. The name tag and most of the support team (bassist Macey Taylor, guitarist Nik Freitas and Rilo Kiley drummer Jason Boesel are the core band) are different on "Conor Oberst," but the record mingles folk rock, country, pop and rootsy rock to land not too far from Bright Eyes' broad turf. In its spontaneity and simplicity, the album comes off as Bright Eyes after hours, but while the musical ambitions are scaled back, it's not slight or a throwaway in any sense.

[ RICHARD CROMELIN, L.A. TIMES ]

## ON THE DOWNLOAD

TOP SONGS FROM JULY 29-AUG. 5

### CHICAGO TOP 10

NO.	SONG, ARTIST	LW
1	"I Kissed a Girl" Katy Perry	1
2	"Get Like Me" David Banner	2
3	"A Millie" Lil Wayne	13
4	"Take a Bow" Rihanna	4
5	"Get Silly" V.I.C.	8
6	"Forever" Chris Brown	6
7	"Put On" Young Jeezy	12
8	"Got Money" Lil Wayne w/ T-Pain	14
9	"Lollipop" Lil Wayne w/ Static Major	3
10	"Love In This Club" Usher	7

### NATIONAL TOP 10

NO.	SONG, ARTIST	LW
1	"I Kissed a Girl" Katy Perry	2
2	"Take a Bow" Rihanna	1
3	"Get Like Me" David Banner	7
4	"A Millie" Lil Wayne	13
5	"Got Money" Lil Wayne w/ T-Pain	11
6	"Love In This Club" Usher	4
7	"Lollipop" Lil Wayne w/ Static Major	3
8	"Forever" Chris Brown	8
9	"Bleeding Love" Leona Lewis	16
10	"Get Silly" V.I.C.	10

LW INDICATES LAST WEEK'S CHART POSITION [ BIGCHAMPAGNE.COM ]

**CHITUNES**

Listen to Out for Hours' "Better Off Alone" from "Save Today Tomorrow" on [redeyechicago.com/chitunes](http://redeyechicago.com/chitunes).

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