

Maps & Atlases Bring 'Math Rock' to Raue

Maps & Atlases play the Lucy's Cafe stage.

By [Jonathan White](#) | [Email the author](#) | May 16, 2011

Indie music stars and Chicago experimental rock group [Maps & Atlases](#) took to the Lucy's Cafe stage May 13 at the [Raue Center for the Arts](#) in downtown Crystal Lake. Along with M&A, folk singer/songwriter Christian William (aka Fall Fox) played for the cafe crowd.

Fall Fox set the mood at the Raue with soft acoustic/electric folk style music. Bringing intimate and timid melodies to upbeat and danceable guitar rhythms was the focus of many of Fall Fox's songs and the crowd seemed to agree with his music style, encouraging each number with lively applause.

Soon after, the Raue's headliner Maps & Atlases began to play and instantly the folks sitting intently at their cafe tables rushed over in front of the stage to get up close and personal with the band they came to see. The group opened with the ninth track off their newest album release, "Pigeon." The track includes guitar, drum, horns and other complex instrumentation.

As M&A continued their set they played through crowd favorites such as "The Sounds They Make," "Witch," "Ted Zancha," "Living Decorations," "Israeli Caves," and their debut single "Solid Ground." The foursome fed the crowd continuously with each player and their dynamic playings styles, which have continuously been dubbed as "math rock."

"It was great and definitely really positive," said vocalist and guitarist Dave Davison as he talked about the experience playing in Crystal Lake for the first time. "When we first started as a band so many of our shows were at first surrounding the Chicago area and we played in Wheaton and other places that were really close to here."

Maps & Atlases will soon be embarking on a nationwide tour promoting their debut LP record, *Perch Patchwork*, hitting most major U.S. cities—with their last stop being Chicago's Lollapalooza.

"We had a lot of fun definitely. We just got back from a tour three weeks ago and even though we planned on getting together to practice, it just didn't really work out that much. We played but didn't really practice for the show that much. So getting together and playing without practicing and playing this show after that tour—it was just sort of freeing in a weird way," said Davison.

When asked about if the band would ever return to Crystal Lake to play the Raue, Davison replied with a resounding "Definitely. That'd be awesome."

After the band completed their lively and intricate stage set, they moved to the center of the audience to play an intimate acoustic and unplugged set. As the audience formed a circle surrounding the band, they played through three acoustic numbers and finished off with Davison playing solo on "The Ongoing Horrible," in which he sits the guitar on his lap and strikes and taps the guitar using harmonics and complex tuning. Davison's video on YouTube of the song being performed has been a huge hit for the band with a staggering 241,545 views.

When asked about the band's new tour, Davison says "It's been really positive. We've got to go to a lot of new places and play with a lot of bands we like. There are a lot of really awesome places we like to play. The Vic in Chicago, the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC. and just a lot of cool clubs. We got to play in Czech Republic, Austria, Denmark and all over Europe. We've been to Mexico and Japan and it's exciting to get to go to a lot of cool places."

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