

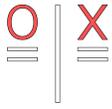
Taken By Sanity Full Biography

Taken By Sanity is a 3 piece, alt-pop band located in the Calgary area, composed of Jonah Morris (vocals, ukulele, guitar), Blaine Stillman (drums, ukulele) and Blair Stillman (keys, trumpet). Forming in late May of 2016, the trio has since accomplished much in the past four years they've worked together; from multiple EP and album releases, to talent competitions, to awards and accolades, it's clear that Taken By Sanity is a group with much on their horizon.

However, everyone needs to start somewhere, and Taken By Sanity is no exception. With their humble beginnings recording YouTube covers and performing for student recitals, Blaine and Blair's duo group "[The Stillman Brothers](#)" sought out vocalist Jonah Morris to expand their band's sound. Discovering one of his [recent uploads](#), the brothers immediately started to bond with Jonah over their shared music taste and goals. After a brief "audition" in their grandparent's living room, the band was officially formed, and booked their first show for the following week. Feeding off each other's energetic nervousness, the boys rushed to put together a 45 minute set, and much to their surprise, their first show was a relative success. Immediately discovering the positive response they were receiving from their upbeat, high-energy shows, Taken By Sanity continued to work on their musical and performance skills, leading to the [Strathmore Canada Day Celebration](#); their first show in front of a few hundred people. After their performance, the trio felt newfound inspiration to pursue music more seriously, and the group decided to finally start writing their own songs, recording their first tune "[Roses](#)" in Jonah's basement.

Continuing to grow and develop their own unique sound, Taken By Sanity entered their first talent competition in November of 2016 with their [cover of "Trees"](#) by twenty one pilots, and won second place. Riding off the high of their first tangible success, the trio continued to book shows and write music, formulating their distinct instrumentation and sound; crisp vocals, ukulele, hardcore drumming, backing track, trumpet, and cohesive keys to tie it all together. For the next two years afterwards, Taken By Sanity played as many shows and festivals as possible. Despite some difficult performances and personal issues, the trio kept pushing forward, utilizing their outlet of songwriting to deal with their own mental health issues. Eventually, this writing process formulated into their first [self-produced demo CD](#), released in March of 2018. Although the project was far from perfect, having a physical product of their hard work and passion was thoroughly satisfying, and helped develop their fanbase further. This release eventually led to their participation in the [2018 Calgary Stampede Talent Search](#), where they reached the finals with their first song, "Roses". Their genuine enthusiasm, talent, and unique audience participation resonated with the crowd and judges, inspiring them to work harder than ever before.

Formulating a strong online presence on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#), Taken By Sanity continued to rise in popularity. Despite Jonah having to move to another province to continue his student career in September of 2018, the band became stronger than ever, and constantly worked on new material. Over the course of 8



months, Taken By Sanity released 3 singles (Strike, Sleepwalker, and Keep Them Warm), produced and released their first music video, gained hundreds of followers and subscribers on their social media pages, and wrote, recorded, and self-produced their first cohesive LP project "City of Contrast" (released on June 1st, 2019); a project that delves into the constant shift between one's sane and insane mindset, eventually resolving into acceptance and balance, reflected through the two songs "Gravity" and "Shade of Blue". Additionally, the band entered their single "Sleepwalker" into the annual CBC Searchlight competition, and with the help of their dedicated fanbase and local communities, managed to make it into the Top 10 in all of Canada. All of this accomplished, while separated by hundreds of kilometres, and simultaneously studying in college.

Later that year, Taken By Sanity was nominated for two YYC Music Awards, and took home People's Choice Award. Utilizing this newfound recognition, the group continued to work on their original music, and released their single "Streetlights" and their EP "Saturn Days" in May 2020; a collection of alt-pop anthems, with their best sound, production, and songwriting quality to date. Their follow-up music video helped fuel the fire, and presently, Taken By Sanity has no intention of slowing down. In January 2021 the trio released their newest project "Paper Child" alongside a self-produced music video with their best sound, production, and songwriting quality to date. "Paper Child" is an enthralling single that follows a conversation between an individual and an idealized version of their younger self, during a time of emotional stress; a plea to reconnect with a side of themselves that had been lost in time. With three YYCMA nominations in 2020, including Group of the Year, and fresh music in the works, it is clear that Taken By Sanity is a group quickly on the rise, finding success through their hard work, genuine passion, and unique identifiable sound. Despite their humble beginnings and struggles, the group has stayed true to their dreams, and it's finally paying off.

