

Bio

Red Letter Hymnal - a collection of songs rooted in the words of Jesus. That is exactly what the boys of Pittsburgh based pop band *Red Letter Hymnal* have set out to create.

It all started in 2013 when singer Brad Lebakken created a dubstep cover of the, at the time undiscovered song, *One Thing Remains*. *"It was at this time where dubstep was just becoming mainstream, and I remember searching for christian dubstep on youtube and wasn't able to find anything. So I figured I would create it"*, says Lebakken. *"It's not that I was a huge fan of dubstep, I've just always been drawn to anything that is new or fresh and at that time there were so many things that had yet to be done with electronic music"*.

It's that kind of futuristic thinking that enabled Lebakken to choose to cover *One Thing Remains*. *"It had just come out and I just had a feeling that it was going to be huge, so I went for it. We got lucky that the song took off"*. Their dubstep cover of the song quickly garnered over a half a million views on Youtube. This overwhelming response had listeners wanting to hear what else the band had to offer. Out of this demand the band was formed.

The members of Red Letter Hymnal started as the local worship band for Christ Church at Grove Farm out of Pittsburgh, PA where RLH frontman Brad Lebakken served as the worship pastor. With a newfound audience awaiting their next move, and a desire to write original material they began writing and performing their own music.

In 2014 Red Letter Hymnal released a self titled album which seamlessly blended worshipful lyrics, contagious melodies, and dance inducing rhythms all the while highlighting the electronic style of music that first put them on the map. This album went on to land them on some of Christian music's largest summer festival's MainStage, along with more and more opportunities to get their message of hope and freedom found in Christ out to the masses.

Up until this point RLH was a rotating collective of artists from their home church that served as frontman Brad Lebakken's travel band. In 2016 RLH finalized a lineup that would not only serve as the touring band but also as the creative collective for the future of the group. This lineup included bass player Jered Rabold, drummer Nathan Bodnar, and guitarist/hip-hop artist Spencer Te'o. With the new lineup the band went into the studio in the fall of 2016 to start writing their latest album *Coastal Kids*.

Since it's release in June, *Coastal Kids* has enabled Red Letter Hymnal to return to the MainStage of some of Christian music's largest festivals, tour the country, get picked up for national and international radio, and receive international attention from multiple media outlets, all the while serving the purpose for starting the band in the first place, to showcase, and invite others into the love and freedom found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"We've all been in and out of bands our whole lives, for us it has to be about more than music, or selling records, or views online. It has to be about people. Jesus loves people, Jesus died for people. At the end of the day it has to be about connecting with another human and celebrating the goodness of God in community for His glory and our good. Music just happens to be the way we do that". -RLH Guitarist, Spencer Te'o

When they aren't on the road, Red Letter Hymnal continues to faithfully serve at their home church, Christ Church at Grove Farm in Pittsburgh, PA.