



## Love In October

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Maybe it was the familiar weather or long Scandinavian history that lured Erik and Kent Widman, originally from Sweden, to Minnesota a year ago. Or maybe it was Minneapolis's hot music scene, as Erik Widman said, with its wide variety of sounds and big hometown names.

Erik moved to Michigan from Sweden in 2000 to go to college. His brother followed two years later. When Erik picked Minnesota for his next move, his brother followed once again.

For the move, they packed a dream of forming a band and finding fame in America. They carried a goal making it to the top.

The Widman brothers did form a band, Love in October, and have started making headway towards their goal, blowing up the local pop-punk scene in less than a year and making fast friends with some of the genre's biggest names, like Motion City Soundtrack.

They also brought a type of rock to the States that was typically only heard from internationally-known bands on their U.S. tours.

Love in October grew up on Swedish rock, Erik said, which is more melodic than its American counterpart. Nevertheless, "this EP is more American Rock, it's more rhythmic."

Love in October definitely sound more like Fall Out Boy than The Hives on their debut EP, "Words of Sound." But Erik said the group wants to incorporate more Swedish rock when they go back to the studio in May to finish up their first full-length album.

The EP has a bright, shiny, poppy feel to it. It's the kind of music that gets blasted behind closed doors, when no one else is home to laugh as you jump on the bed or pogo around the room.

The songs are catchy. The EP shows that, while the group may not be the most original, they make music that feels good, the kinds of songs that may not provoke deep thought, but still get stuck in your head.

The words pale in comparison to the music, with lines like “As I wait by your door/ Fall asleep on the floor/ But no body knows/ Yeah, but nobody knows,” which sounds like it could be off the soundtrack to “The Last Kiss.” Yet Love in October has found a formula that is popular right now, which may bring them success. They write about generic topics like love and everyday life, small towns and the simple things.

“Love songs are the easiest to write because they are the easiest to relate to,” Erik said. “I’ve played on both sides of the ocean and people can relate to a love song, no matter which side I’m on.”

The brothers’ dreams of making it big are quickly coming closer to being a reality. The group formed less than a year ago, started playing shows less than six months ago, and already recorded a music video for their first single, “A Day in the Life Of.”

They have music on iTunes, Midwest tours and an apparel website. The band is getting noticed within the Twin Cities musicians’ network as potentially being a group that could break onto the national scene this year.

Fellow musician Larry Ravenswood wrote in his music blog that the band is his, “bet for the best ‘nobody will see it coming for 2007.’”

The band is willing to share the limelight, though, Erik said. For example, a group of University journalism students will present their civic engagement project on dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico during the band’s EP release party.

Erik chalks the Widman’s sky-rocketing fame to experience, which the members garnered on both sides of the Atlantic.

“We all have been in semi-professional bands before,” he said. “So we’ve already made the mistakes bands can make and learned from them.”