

Foreword

I have many memories of the time I spent in Vine. I played with some incredible musicians. There were great individuals who supported us, both monetarily and with their time and efforts. I met many wonderful people at shows. I'd like to share some of those stories with you in these chapters.

I'll release chapters as I finish writing them, so it might take a quite a while to fill in the blanks between chapters and it's definitely possible I'll never finish. This collection of memoirs will be based on my memory (which at times is very good and at other times is very foggy). I do not plan to interview others to make sure I cover all viewpoints and opinions of a specific time period. So, I'll guess that some former members of Vine may say I got some things wrong, but I don't mean to. I'm doing this with the best of intentions.

As is the case with any band, there were great times and there were tough times. It sure is great when there's a fun audience. It sure is tough when there is *no* audience. I've experienced both sides of that coin many times. Rehearsals, loading up your gear, driving to a show, loading in, setting up, sound checking, etc, etc...it all takes the same amount of time and effort whether or not an audience is there. It's always discouraging when the room is empty.

Being in a band is much like a marriage. You spend a lot of time with your bandmates, so you get to know them very well...all of their idiosyncrasies, their etiquette, their personalities, what foods make them burp and fart, everything. Both the good and the bad sides of each person (yourself included) will come out at some point. So, being a member of the band, you have to decide if the good and the bad are something you want to live with. For me, it was never a question, I loved being in a band. There's something about depending on someone else's talents, timing and memory that makes being in a band exciting. They cover your mistakes and you cover theirs. It feels like a brotherhood or a team. Maybe it comes from my upbringing. My father was a Texas High School football coach, so a big part of my younger life was about being a part of a team. When you think about it, that's exactly what a marriage is too...two people teaming together to get through the good and bad times together.

So, it's never easy anytime there is a member change. In Vine there were several member changes over the years and every single one of them were very hard. In these chapters, I'll be brief anytime I mention a member change and I will not get in to the details. I'd prefer to keep the details and the emotions between the members.

During the eight years that Vine existed, there are a handful of days I remember vividly and I'll probably never forget. These are the times I'll write about first and then as time goes by I'll write more. One was the first time I heard the name Vine. The second, was the day I learned that Tyrant was a popular song on the radio. The third, was when we heard about The Vines. And the fourth, was the day I signed the paperwork that brought an end to Vine.

I'm going to write these chapters and assign Chapter Numbers to them, but know that the numbering could change over time. I'll commit to leaving the Titles the same so you'll know what you have and haven't already read.

~ Mike "August" Roberts