

The Labricks Extended Bio

Nearly every Labricks show ends with one or more audience members telling the band some variation of "I used to love that song and haven't heard it in years!" This is the kind of reaction they aim for.

The Labricks (pronounced LAY-bricks) are Tom Cardenas on drums, Miles Miniaci on keyboards, Ryan Anderson on bass, and Nathaniel Williams on guitar. They formed in Woodland, California in 2021. All veterans of alternative music bands, they formed at least partly because they were getting tired of hearing the same 15-20 covers from different bands every time they went to a brewpub or street fair. Some of that "fed-up Dad" energy informs their performances.

Their earliest shows featured only acoustic guitar, drums, and keyboards, with backing vocals shouted rather than sung. Even after adding bassist Ryan Anderson, they keep some of that raw, unkempt vibe to this day. No song gets covered exactly the way it sounded on the original record. Guitar leads become twisty organ lines. Bright snares and strumming replace compressed drums and processed guitars. Lead singer Nathaniel Williams keeps his nasal, Midwestern twang, even singing oh-so-British bands as the Smiths and the Cure. But the songs always retain the reasons you loved them in the first place. Great lyrics. Great melodies. Great hooks.

Their music has been described as "classic college rock" and "new wave music sung by a hick." On any night, The Labricks channel the thrilling, anything-goes, "what will they play next?" energy found in 80s and early '90s college radio, including David Bowie, New Order, and the Pixies alongside proto-garage bands like Sir Douglas Quintet or Question Mark and the Mysterians.

The band's name comes from a 19th-century Missouri slang term for a no-good, ignorant n'er-do-well. Mark Twain said the word "occupied in the matter of strength the middle ground between scoundrel & son of a bitch..."