

The Program

Monday, June 8, 2015
Unity Chapel, 7:30 pm

I'm Not a Pilot

MARK GLATZEL
vocals and keys

ADRIAN ESQUERRA
bass

PETER THOMAS
cello

STEVE VORASS, Jr.
percussion

the program will run with one intermission unless
otherwise announced

I'M NOT A PILOT's appearance is underwritten
in part by a gift from Jack Ford and Kent Mayfield

About the Group

Milwaukee indie rock band **I'm Not A Pilot** takes its name from front man Mark Glatzel's musings on the idea of the control - or lack of it - one has over life. Mark often alludes to being a passenger on a plane knowing the destination of his journey, but uncertain of what the route will bring him through. With a cache of intricately melodic songs about uncertainty and lack of control, Mark recruited his brother Matthew Glatzel on bass guitar and drummer Steve Vorass Jr. (both formerly from Stückenberg) to complement his keyboard and vocals, and to help realize his vision through these songs. Peter Thomas, a cellist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, began to sit in on weekly band practices and soon his involvement turned into an invitation to join the band. The line-up complete, **I'm Not A Pilot** released its first self-titled EP in 2009 on Branch Records. Explosive with the rolls and crashes of Vorass' drums and lush textures of piano and cello, the EP introduces Mark's dark lyrical content, warm vocal melodies, and a unique sound.

After a year of local recognition as "Milwaukee's guitar-less rock band," and with a full-length album nearly completed, **INAP**'s Matthew Glatzel handed the bass strings over to songwriter Adrian Esguerra, who had recently moved from Seattle to Milwaukee. With Adrian contributing new bass parts, **INAP** finished and independently self-released its first full-length album *Need Money for Rocket Fuel* in November 2010. Live appearances on local radio stations, television, and summer festivals helped quickly establish the band as local favorites garnering **INAP** an impressively diverse fan base.

Voted Best Rock Band 2010, 2011, and 2013 in Milwaukee's Shepherd Express Weekly, Best Rock Band 2011 at WYMS 88.9fm Radio Milwaukee Music Awards (Song of the Year 2014 nomination), and nominated for a plethora of awards including Band of the Year 2012 at the Wisconsin Area Music Awards, **I'm Not A Pilot** has toured the Midwest (and Texas, Tennessee) extensively performing at colleges, high schools, performing arts centers, music venues/clubs, music festivals and house concerts.

In November 2013, **I'm Not A Pilot** independently self-released its second EP entitled *The Story So Far*. Soon after, a national radio campaign helped place **INAP**'s music across the country and through word of mouth, an independent feature film called *The Surface* (starring Sean Astin, Chris Mulkey, and Mimi Rogers, directed by Gil Cates, Jr., written by Jeff Gendelman) placed two **I'm Not A Pilot**'s songs ("A Lot To Say" and "Ami's Song" from *Need Money For Rocket Fuel*) in crucial moments in the film that was premiered at 2014 Milwaukee Film Festival.

Huge advocates of music programs in schools, **I'm Not A Pilot** is extremely active in music education. Between 2010-2013, **INAP** performed family concerts for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's nationally acclaimed Arts in Community Education program. In the fall of 2013, **INAP** commissioned Nashville arranger/composer, Jim Gray, to fully orchestrate (for winds, brass, percussion, strings) eight original songs by **I'm Not A Pilot**. The concept behind the commission is simply to bring a one-of-a-kind educational experience to high school musicians across the country through performing side-by-side with **I'm Not A Pilot** in concert. The orchestrated songs/charts were completed in February 2014 and premiered on

April 25th, 2014 at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center featuring 90+ students from The Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO). In June 2014, **INAP** self-released their fourth album entitled *I'm Not A Pilot LIVE* featuring the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Since then, **INAP** has performed with the Sun Prairie High School Orchestra and future collaborations include concerts and educational classes with the high schools of West Bend and Waukesha South.

"**I'm Not A Pilot** is four musicians coalescing to reach a state of gestalt by exploring new sonic territories," writes Charles Nevsimal of INFO* Magazine, "and in doing so, they're charting a course to the stars." **I'm Not A Pilot**'s music can be heard on iTunes, YouTube, Pandora, Spotify, Rdio, Amazon, and CD Baby.

Singer-songwriter **Mark Glatzel** grew up in Waukesha, WI and began taking piano lessons and writing his own songs at age 10. Mark started performing his material at local coffee shops and soon after, found interest in forming his own band. In 2008, Mark started *I'm Not A Pilot*; a project based around a catalogue of his original works and an idea of unique instrumentation. Currently Mark is in his fourth year as a Piano Performance and Graphic Design Major at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also works part-time as a server at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Steve Vorass Jr. began drumming at the age of 10 in his school band. Many hours of rudiments and studying Alfred's drum method led him to believe there was much more fun to be had playing behind a band than in front of a director. He's had the pleasure of playing with *I'm Not A Pilot* all over the country. Steve also performs with the Milwaukee based bands, The Revenge Society and Myles Coyne and the Rusty Nickel Band. During the day, Steve is a web designer and resides in Brown Deer, WI with his wife, Thea and two children, Ella and Miles.

Peter Thomas has been a member of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra since 2008. Peter started cello at age five and graduated with performance degrees from the University of Minnesota and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Peter performs primarily with the MSO and **INAP** but also as a soloist, chamber musician, and recording artist. He has presented workshops across the country through his innovative use of the electric cello and has recorded, arranged, and edited music for Hal Leonard Music. As a teacher, Peter maintains a private cello studio and serves on the faculty of the American Suzuki Institute. Peter resides in Wauwatosa, WI and enjoys the life of being a multi-genre performer and music educator.

Born in New York, NY, **Adrian Esguerra** grew up playing piano, trumpet, and guitar. He started writing songs in high school then discovered the art of multi-track recording shortly after. Creating songs inspired him to learn many other instruments, adding to the recording experience. After nearly a decade of touring and recording in Seattle, Adrian moved his recording studio to Milwaukee where he plays bass and writes with *I'm Not A Pilot*. Adrian resides in Whitefish Bay, WI with his wife, Kyla and two sons, Elliott and Jesse.