

## THE ANTS: A Brief History

The Ants present American music rigged against massive mainstream acceptance or insular indie rock success, creating songs that are offbeat, lulling, and uninhibited. A veteran of **bible belt strip mall culture**, Chad Bryan is a unique and engaging lyricist, drawing from Tom T. Hall to Lou Reed. Featuring a traditional rock arrangement complimented by mandolin, lap steel, four part harmonies and miscellanea, the Ants lay a foundation of warm, strange musical turns.

Bryan and bass player Brad Nichols formed the band in 2001. The Ants have three LPs released by Sickroom Records-Chicago([www.sickroomrecords.com](http://www.sickroomrecords.com)): '*Sparkling Disaster Strategies*'-2002 and '*Victory Side*'-2004 and '*Ideabreaker*'-2007. The band has three independent releases: '*The Ants Create Meaning*'-2001, the vinyl split EP, '*Chinese Democracy*'-2005 and '*Stories About Killing*'-2010.

The Ants have traveled the country many times, winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. They are at home in dilapidated drinking spots, all-ages house shows and busking on downtown streets. The Ants are **shape-shifters**, not easily labeled and reveling in their contradictions.

The band has shared the stage with Magnolia Electric, Karate, Simon Joyner, Early Day Miners, Split Lip Rayfield, Okay, Drakkar Sauna, The Working Poor, Bottom of the Hudson, Pattern Is Movement, Bobby Conn, Will Whitmore, Crucifetus and many other fine musicians. They enjoy a loyal regional following and **they often break even** when hitting the far off places. The Ants were part of the Sickroom Records CMJ showcase 2005 & 2006 and the Americana Music Association Festival 2005.

The Ants:



Chad Bryan-Guitar, Vocals, 5'8", 160lbs., Caucasian of Irish Ancestry



Brad Nichols-Bass, Mandolin, Vocals, 6'0", 180lbs., Caucasian of German Ancestry



David Randall-Wurlitzer, Organ, Vocals, 5'10", 180lbs., Caucasian of French Ancestry



Sean McEniry-Drums, Vocals, 6'2", 295lbs., Latino of Irish Ancestry