

Math teacher is releasing his third album

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Now News Group

For Brookfield resident Dan Kolesari, the best things come in threes.

He has a third album, "A Shot in the Dark," which will be released March 1. He has three children under 3. And he has been a math teacher at Pilgrim Park Middle School for three years.

The musician grew up playing the piano since he was 7 or 8. Once in high school, he was asked to play the piano at a party. Kolesari had taken piano lessons for eight years at that point, but when he sat down he could feel everyone looking at him.

Suddenly he couldn't remember anything. It was a lesson that taught him to always be prepared for performances.

Kolesari started playing cover songs in venues around Milwaukee about 10 to 15 years ago. Five years ago, Kolesari started to focus on writing songs and recording them. This produced his first album, "Waiting for you."

He found his personal experiences shaped his songwriting and influenced his first album. He and his wife had a difficult time trying to start a family, and the songs on the album were influenced by that.

"It was therapeutic to get that off my

chest," Kolesari said.

Now he is a father to twins Asher and Mabel, 2, and Beatrice, 10 months.

His second album was inspired by becoming a father. It is titled, "Since You've Been Around" and the cover is his and his son's hands tickling the ivories.

The third album was him trying to do something different and wanting to change things up. Kolesari described the songs as having an element of positive energy and inspiring people to look at the bright side of life yet filtering in reality.

As a listener, the song "Heavy Load" speaks truth to trying to remain hopeful while carrying life's burdens. The lyrics go, "You can only hold so much throughout the day."

"It makes a statement and a listener picks up on it, and I still feel I have accomplished something as an artist," Kolesari said.

His kids lovingly call it "daddy's song."

From music to math

Both of Kolesari's parents are educators and were a big influence on his life. He came to understand how teachers can help the community.

Kolesari graduated from Brookfield

East in 2001 and continued his education at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee where he earned a degree in mathematics education in 2006; in 2012, Kolesari received his master's degree in educational technology.

At Pilgrim Park Middle School, he teaches math to eighth graders, but doesn't incorporate his musical abilities into his lessons.

Does being a musician give him a cool factor to his pupils?

"I don't think a math teacher can ever have a cool factor," Kolesari laughed.

Kolesari said any teacher will tell you that if you want to get good at something, you need to put in the time and practice.

"Patience and hard work pay off for me as both a musician, a teacher and as a father of three kids under three," he said.

With a full plate of kiddos, teaching, family and music, he finds prioritizing helps keep him balanced. He strives to make sure he puts his family first and be the best husband and father he can be.

"Music is always going to be a part of my life," Kolesari said.

For more information on Kolesari and his upcoming album, visit www.facebook.com/dankolesari.



Dan Kolesari plays the piano at home in Brookfield. His third album, "A Shot in the Dark" will be released March 1.

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