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Zammuto, Levek at Club Downunder

Former member of The Books describes musical transition, inspiration

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Experimental projects Zammuto and Levek will play at Florida State University's music venue Club Downunder on Sept. 11, 2012. / Photo courtesy of Zammuto

Written by
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On Tuesday, Sept. 11, Club Downunder will host experimental projects Vermont-based Zammuto and Orlando-based Levek.

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Zammuto is led by Nick Zammuto, along with bassist Mikey Zammuto electric guitarist Gene Back and drummer Sean Dixon. Nick Zammuto is previously known as the guitarist and vocalist for The Books. Zammuto started about a year ago as a continuation of the former band, encompassing more of a rock feel than the folk style creations of The Books.

"I came late to music," frontman Nick Zammuto said. "I was 22 or 23 when I started writing music, but before that I just messed around on a guitar."

Zammuto says it's difficult to define their music, but present are elements of rock and multimedia, making for a dynamic sound. His musical inspirations range from Paul Simon to Radiohead and bluegrass.

"I'm a white guy who grew up in the suburbs, so I don't know who I am," said Zammuto. "It's just a big mix of things."

Zammuto began working on their first album last summer, and their self-titled debut was released in April. The group then began touring the country, something that Zammuto greatly enjoys.

"The shows are just really fun," said Zammuto. "There are moments on stage, especially with these guys, it's just fun. And I get to eat some good food. Driving, however, is not so fun."

Playing at Club Downunder with Zammuto is experimental group, Levek, led by David Levesque, a writer and musician. Levek's first album, *Look a Little Closer*, is set to release on Sept. 25.

"It's definitely nostalgic," said Levesque. "There's funk influence and soul. It's reminiscent of a mix-tape. It's all over the place."

As a Florida native, Levesque is hoping to bring Florida to a more positive light in the music industry.

"I'm excited to see what happens with this band," said Levesque. "The old stuff is only me, but the new one is about bringing in Florida in a positive way. I want to show that Florida can do things, and represent who we are. People seem to shove Florida under the rug."

Levesque wasn't in a band at the time when he recorded his first album, and learned to operate a professional studio by himself.

"The first release is kind of a new world to me," said Levesque. "I'm excited to record with the full band in the future. We're going in pretty soon to work on the sophomore album."

While this will be Levek's first show in Tallahassee, Zammuto is no stranger to the scene.

"We're psyched to be coming back to Club Downunder," said Zammuto. "The Books played twice there, and it's one of our favorite places to play."

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