

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

**Cicconetti Brothers  
Work Together, Play Together**



You may know at least one of the Cicconetti brothers. Eric is an Entry Level Software Quality Administrator, Patrick is an Administrative Services Customer Service Coordinator and Fred is a Quality Assurance Specialist. They epitomize the family values that make up our culture here at Kimball Midwest.

But they don't just work together, they also perform together as The Cicconetti Brothers in an indie folk-rock band around Columbus and Wooster, Ohio. Eric and Patrick Cicconetti recently talked with INK about growing up around music, performing together and how they all ended up at Kimball Midwest.



**How did you get into music?**

**Eric:** Our dad was a musician, and he was in bands when we were growing up. We all sort of fell into it naturally. We were not really forced into it too much. I cried my way out of piano lessons as a little kid, but I eventually picked it back up.

**Do you play more than one instrument?**

**Patrick:** Guitar and bass. I started with the guitar, then quit. Then came back on the bass. I still knew how to play the guitar, so I started to enjoy it. There were always musical instruments all over the house – guitars, bass, piano. Fred plays the guitar and drums.

**When did the three of you decide to form a band?**

**Eric:** At the end of 2011. I was living in Cincinnati because I was going to school down there. Pat had written some songs. We decided to play them at this wine shop in Wooster. So, come 2012, we just started doing it for real. I took the Greyhound back and forth from Cincinnati over the next several months before I finally moved back. And we started playing our first shows in 2012.

**Patrick:** We recorded when I was back in town. It sounded really good. We were passing songs back and forth at that point, so I was still in Arizona and Eric was in Cincinnati. And we would just record on little, crappy recorders. By the time we agreed to all come back and do it, we had a bunch of ideas ready to start rolling.

**Obviously, you came back to Ohio.**

**Patrick:** Fred was already in Wooster. I said if Eric would move back to Wooster, I would move back, too. We would give it a try. It was easiest to do something like that going back to home base where we had a bunch of family, a bunch of friends, instead of talking everybody into moving across the country.

**Are all three of you songwriters?**

**Patrick:** I think Eric and I write pretty much all the songs. Fred's written a couple.

**Eric:** And when we say write them, it's the initial chords and the lyrics and the tune. But then a lot of stuff changes. Fred still has a lot of input on how we're going to put the songs together.

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**Let's just pack up and  
move to Columbus  
for the band.**

**It sounds like the music is composed first, and then you add lyrics?**

**Eric:** When it comes to songwriting, it's hard to explain the process. I had songs where I wrote all the lyrics in my head without ever touching an instrument. And then I'll get around to putting it to chords. I've had times where I've had something on the guitar I've been playing and eventually words show up out of nowhere. It's really unpredictable.

**Patrick:** I almost always do the music first. But that's just me. Where it's a couple chords and a tune I'm humming. And if I like it enough and I'm feeling it enough, then I'll start trying to put words to it. But it's still unpredictable, where sometimes the song gets finished in 15 minutes just sitting there once, and I never even write the words down because I just remember them. And other times, things sit for years and never get done. Or get halfway done and you just never finish them. It's all over the place. But I would say the way it starts is always the same for me.

**Your father was a musical influence. Who else influenced you?**

**Eric:** We always reference The Beatles just because we've ended up covering more of their songs than any other band. Our musical taste outside of The Beatles is pretty varied. It's one of our common ground bands.

**Patrick:** I think we agree on Pink Floyd, a lot of classics ... Simon and Garfunkel, Bob Dylan. That era of classic greats, we all agree on. Outside of that, it's really different.

**What is one of your more memorable gigs and why?**

**Patrick:** Our second show ever was Italian Fest in downtown Wooster. It's down on the square on a huge stage with a huge sound system. The show before that we played in a grass field on some crappy speakers with a few people watching. The second one was this big city production. It was pretty wild. A lot of our family is involved in Italian Fest, too. It's cool they asked us to play. We got to work with them.

**It must have been nerve-racking, playing in front of a larger audience.**

**Patrick:** I think the nerves are the same, whether it's a wine shop for a handful of people or a packed place. You just don't want anything to go wrong. But you know the songs, so it's just the butterflies of getting through the first couple songs.

**What life lessons have you learned from performing in a band?**

**Patrick:** The band's like family. Not just because we're brothers. Especially if you take it seriously enough that



you want to be playing shows and recording music and trying to sound as good as you can. You have to get four or five people who all want to take that time out of their personal lives and schedule practices and make time for the shows and agree on the songs. It's like being in a relationship, but with four other people ... trying to keep everybody happy.

**So, collaboration and teamwork ... that sort of thing?**

**Patrick:** Yeah. And you have to make it work to be successful and move forward.

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**Even if you don't have any long-term plans, you should stick around here because Kimball Midwest is growing like crazy.**

**Obviously, you get joy out of performing, but do you dream of something bigger?**

**Eric:** I think anybody who plays music to any degree of seriousness has that dream in their mind to an extent. How much are you gonna do to actualize it? Because people who do make it ... we've met a lot of bands, and you see some of them put a lot of work into it. And it'll go nowhere. Or you see others put a lot of work into it, and you'll see them head off into something allegedly bigger and better. Don't know ... we're not there. But we've always teetered on the edge ... do we want to put in the amount of work it would take to do that? Are we even capable of taking it to that level?

**Patrick:** The older you get, the harder it gets. The more you're gonna sacrifice.

**Eric:** Yeah, like money these days. Serious girlfriends. Rent. Stuff like that.

**Adult responsibilities ...**

**Patrick:** Yeah. We all lived in the same house when we moved to Columbus. Let's just pack up and move to Columbus for the band.

**Eric:** Six of us in a couple different houses for two and a half years. I loved it. It was rough. I mean, we're practicing together. We all end up working at the same place. And we're living together. It's a lot of each other.

**How did you all end up at Kimball Midwest?**

**Patrick:** I got a job down here in the warehouse. Tod Steele said, "Even if you don't have any long-term plans, you should stick around here because Kimball Midwest

is growing like crazy." And he was right. I really enjoyed it and Kimball Midwest was flexible, too. It was a good job for wanting to pursue the band. I just hit my five years in April. And Fred was next. I recruited him pretty quickly after I started. And then we recruited Eric.

**Eric:** I started in September of that year. Kimball's been so good to me. I do kind of love it.

**Patrick:** It helped with the band really, too. If we all work here, we can all be on the same schedule instead of trying to juggle different schedules and stuff. If we came down here for the band, let's make it a priority. We all started in the warehouse and have come up quite a bit from that over the years.

**What does it mean to you to work for such a family-oriented company?**

**Patrick:** It's just a noticeable difference. The vibe and the culture in general. Feeling like everybody's on the same page. People are closer and friendlier and nicer than they necessarily have to be in a work environment.

**Eric:** It feels cool to be in such close proximity of the top brass and to see them interacting all the time. I've seen them the whole time I've worked here.

**Patrick:** Speaking at the meetings, Employee of the Month, taking the time to sit everybody down to talk about everything that's happened and what's gonna happen. You don't see that happening with a lot of companies, at least not everybody getting to be a part of that.

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Check out The Cicconetti Brothers at <https://cbrothersmusic.bandcamp.com/> or catch one of their live performances around Columbus or Wooster.