



## Nashville Exile Bio Hand Drawn

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Some bands are assembled. Others evolve slowly, shaped by time, shared history, and the quiet persistence of songwriting. Nashville Exile belongs firmly in the latter category.

The UK-based group grew out of decades of musical connection between cousins Matthew Crozur and Cat Smithurst, whose earliest memories together involved discovering records and learning songs long before either imagined forming a band. Crozur initially toured internationally as guitarist for UK-based UnAmerican, performing alongside legendary artists including The Who and Neil Young. When that chapter ended, he returned home with a renewed focus: write songs that felt honest and lasting.

Meanwhile, Cat had built a thriving career performing across the UK music circuit, developing her voice through constant live performance and formal musical training. When the two reunited creatively, songwriting quickly became the center of their collaboration — first through a charity project supporting homelessness initiatives, then through an expanding circle of musicians who shared their vision.

Guitarist and singer/songwriter Amu Dennett joined soon after, followed by drummer Rick Kent and bassist (and later, Cat's husband) Mark Smithurst, transforming the project into a close-knit musical family. Weekly writing sessions — often informal gatherings in kitchens and basements — became the foundation of a sound rooted in collaboration rather than calculation.

Drawing inspiration from Nashville's songwriting legacy and the outsider spirit embodied by artists they admired, the band adopted the name Nashville Exile — a reflection of both influence and independence. Guided by longtime A&R mentor Tom Lewis and later signed to Pasadena Records, the band refined their recordings through transatlantic collaboration between Kent and Los Angeles. Early releases introduced audiences to their interpretive sensibility before the arrival of original material.

That arrival came with "Collide," the first single from their debut album *Hand Drawn*. Written during the band's earliest sessions together and completed in a sudden burst of inspiration after more than a year of refinement, the song captures the emotional clarity at the heart of Nashville Exile's music: moments when uncertainty gives way to connection.

Now preparing to release their debut album internationally, Nashville Exile stands as proof that the long road — the one built through experience, patience, and shared belief — can still lead somewhere new.

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