

Bio

"Funkharp's first concert was me on a boardwalk bench, all the instruments I could carry and an open guitar case with a sign saying 'Change'" says Joseph Randle, founding member of Funkharp. He's a classic band nerd with a surprising tongue. Drifting between ultra-literate eloquence and childlike wonder, that "Change" sign on his guitar case was probably meant as a general statement, not a request for spare coin. Randle, who writes all of Funkharp's songs and jumps from instrument to instrument on stage, is held to account by the Thundercat, a grinning and excitable bass phenom whose slap n' pop style interlocks with Randle's playing the way a zebra's stripes might fit together. And completing this talented trio is drummer Kevin Hanes. A reserved person by nature, Kevin communicates his personality and story through his hybridized percussive style, combining elements of rock, jazz, and worldbeat. The three are often joined in studio and onstage by fellow multi-instrumentalist, Gene Orlando, a tonehead who creates soundscapes that envelop Funkharp's signature sound.

Funkharp's roots are the small clubs of New York City and Philadelphia, but the band has taken to the road, tackling more and more of America's east coast and midwest. With the exception of a few lucky breaks (opening for Jeffrey Gaines, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and Chiddy Bang or their charity performance at Ripken Stadium), Funkharp have grown from the ground up. A show at a friend's house party results in a concert at a nearby bar or club; then later turns into a performance at a local music festival and so forth.

"We've always relished a crowd's silence moreso than their applause," says Funkharp frontman, Joseph Randle, following a monster performance for over a 1000 screaming fans at a college Spring Fair, "I like dive bars, open mics, and busy restaurants that situate us in the background. Coaxing a crowd to quiet down and pay attention. That's our greatest achievement." Funkharp happily take on venues of every size and shape, mastering the art of crowd pleasing; courting each audience like a romance fated for that exact evening. When other bands shout so that people must hear, Funkharp speaks soundly so that people will listen.

Always lusting for their next affair with an audience, Funkharp will continue to travel to further reaches. If you'd like to see them live and in-concert, you can watch their tour schedule at funkharp.com, or you can just ask them to venture out your way. Funkharp revels any excuse to play a few tunes, see a new place, and make a few more friends.

A couple quick quotes: from press, radio, and publication

"Funkharp is a unique, multi-talented band that pulls out all the stops. Their funky mix of Philly rhythm and blues to New Orleans bayou Jazz is unlike anything else out there. This band rocks!"

- Cindy Wuollet, *Volta Unveiled*

"The ambitious boys of Funkharp emanate a great energy and possess chemistry that any rising group seeks to desire. Each of the guys brings their own unique talent to the group, which has ultimately resulted in their fresh and dynamic sound that everyone should keep an ear out for."

- Mike "The Psych" Vuoto, *WLOY Loyola Radio*

"His harmonica playing will melt your face off"

- Matt Miller, *Matt Miller Music*

"Funkharp emote a wonderful style of blues and jam rock. However, it is their radio ready songs which make me think they are going places."

- Dave Simons, *Philly Music Live*