

# London band, The Seas, tops at Somerset 'Battle'

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The 8th Annual Clear Channel-Lake Cumberland Battle of the Bands proved to be nothing short of a source of pride for the city of London, as local band, The Seas, brought home a first place finish.

The competition featured 14 bands from throughout the southeast – the majority being from Kentucky and Tennessee. All genres were represented, from bluegrass to hip-hop to indie rock to Christian rock.

On Saturday, Jan. 4, each band played a 25-minute set, being judged for musicianship, originality, professionalism, marketability, crowd response and stage presence. Six were chosen to compete in the finals on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Sunday upped the stakes. Each of the six bands played a 40-minute set before judges were given time to discuss and pick a winner. After a short deliberation, the London rock quartet was chosen as the victor.

In addition to first place, The Seas were also awarded the Greg Denney Memorial Musician's Pick Award for overall musicianship. The band's drummer, Richard Sester, also won the JR Stroufe Memorial Drummer of the Year Award. Along with some prize money, The Seas were also awarded a spot in the Masters Musicians Festival in Somerset taking place this summer – a festival that showcased Willie Nelson in 2013.

Claiming the Clear Channel-Lake



From left to right, drummer Richard Sester, bassist Jeremy Williams, vocalist Michael Sliter and guitarist Logan Powell.

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Cumberland trophy has been a work in progress for The Seas. In 2012, the band could only claim third place. The following year saw them claim second. This was their fourth year playing in the Battle.

Formed originally in 2009, The Seas play a powerful blend of metal, alternative, and hard rock. The band's sound takes its listener on a tour of rock sub-genres, at moments escaping into progressive, sometimes

industrial. The end product is nothing short of a fresh take on an old category.

"I think it's important for any band to create a sound that sets them apart," said vocalist Michael Sliter. "For us, I think it comes back to our musical roots and the bands that inspired each of us to start playing in the first place."

"It helps us stand out against the norm in music that is heard today,"

added guitarist Logan Powell. "We work hard to avoid clichés or trends and focus on letting the song speak for itself."

The Seas back up this creativity with precision. Their overall sound stands as the end product of meticulous layering, application of effects, and unique time signatures. When listening to The Seas, it's obvious you're listening to dues paid on each instrument and production board. Drummer Rich Sester finds their use of available technology – including seven-string guitars and a five-string bass – a prime resource.

"This puts our music in a lower register and helps us achieve a heavier, aggressive sound on some songs and a more melancholic, emotional sound on others," he said. "The use of a sampler also makes our music stand out by giving us an electronic element that many bands lack."

Since the release of their debut album, "A Separation," in 2009, The Seas have become a recognized regional name through live performances at movie theatres, nightclubs, bars and restaurants. The band has roamed all over the state and beyond.

The Seas plan on using their winnings as a platform for financing a new album.

For more information on The Seas, visit [www.theseasmusic.com](http://www.theseasmusic.com) or find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theseasmusic](http://www.facebook.com/theseasmusic).