

# Black Tooth Grin (BTG) Band Review

By Georgeann Bramer

If you are looking to rock out and have a great time, Black Tooth Grin (BTG) is the band to experience! You may hear many people describe their music as mayhem (in a good way). BTG is made up of five very talented men. Mike Miseno on lead vocals (a Leo); AJ Simiele on guitar and vocals (a Capricorn); Leon Ozug on guitar and vocals (a Gemini); Ian MacDonald on bass, vocals, and keys (a Cancer); and Rick Miller on drums and percussion (a Virgo). They choose to describe their music as "aggressive". According to AJ, he finds it to be very therapeutic. AJ says being able to jam on the weekends with BTG helps to relieve the week of stress life threw at him.



You can hear Black Tooth Grin play a variety of song selections by various artists such as Metallica, Korn, Creed, Linkin Park, Godsmack, Slipknot and many more. You'll also hear songs written and recorded by BTG. They like to choose songs that fit them as a group and will set them aside from other bands. Of course you always find, I quote, "guilty pleasures" in there. But one thing's for sure, they will always keep you on your toes wanting more.

Black Tooth Grin was founded in 2005 by Mike, Leon and Rick. Mike joined a band named Flood of which AJ was already a member of. Flood opened for the band Aztec Jade at several venues. It was then they met up with Rick and Leon who were members of Aztec Jade. AJ left to form a band Soul Crunch, who released three albums. In the meantime Ian joined Aztec Jade. By March 2005, Black Tooth Grin was complete with all five of these multi-talented musicians!

Somehow these five guys ended up crossing paths time after time and here they are together as one group...Black Tooth Grin! Could it be fate?? Or did the Laws of Attraction bring them together?

When I asked the band if they believed life to be predetermined, I got some skepticism. Mike believes you create your own breaks in life. AJ believes some parts are predetermined and some you make happen as you go. Leon, Ian and Rick agree with AJ's philosophy. They all believe that their actions taken throughout the years have guided them to where they are today. Mike feels that "how you recover from your experiences in life is what makes you who you are."

When the men of Black Tooth Grin aren't entertaining music lovers on the weekend you can find them living a normal life like you and I. Mike "aka" Mr. Miseno is a sixth grade social studies teacher, AJ "aka" Mr. Simiele is an eighth grade social studies teacher, Rick is a professional installer for a well known home improvement company, Ian is a computer science professor, and if you are looking to learn how to jam with the big boys, Leon is the man to see for some guitar lessons!

As far as astrology is concerned, this band is very intriguing. There are four elements in the Zodiac that each sign falls under; Earth (Capricorn, Taurus, Virgo), Air (Aquarius, Gemini, Libra), Water (Pisces, Cancer, Scorpio), and Fire (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius). Mike is from the element Fire, those who tend to be high spirited; he brings the excitement out in the band and their listeners. Rick is from the element Earth, those who tend to be more grounded; he provides the stability in the band. Ian is from the element Water, those who tend to be more emotional; he helps to express the emotions in their music. Leon is from the element Air, those who tend to be deep thinkers, he brings a sense of reality and knows what you want from them. Then we have AJ, also from the element Earth, he gives the band that extra feel of consistency and stability to stay together as one. All four of these elements, with a little extra earth, complete them and bring them together as one.

Not only is Black Tooth Grin made up of very talented musicians but they are very down-to-earth, outgoing, friendly guys! Whether metal music is your choice or not, you are in for a treat with BTG. They will leave you wanting more. Metal hasn't been my choice of music in the past but listening to these guys has opened my eyes to a whole new genre of music. If they come to my town for a show, you can bet you'll see me there! For all you out-of-towners traveling to or through Upstate New York, stop to catch a show and join the Black Tooth Grin Army. You won't regret it!

Check out their new EP and demos at their web site [www.btgband.com](http://www.btgband.com) and for all you myspace buffs you'll find them there as well at [www.myspace.com/btgband](http://www.myspace.com/btgband)