

## Rock n Roll Will Never Die: Neither Apparently Will Music Inspired Tattoos



It is probably universally agreed that one of the biggest influences in tattoos has got to be music. Album covers, lead singers, poetic lyrics, and inspirational quotes all show up in ink. I understand the love. If I had the guts, I would get Mazzy Star's "Fade Into You" lyrics tatted across my whole back. I love the words and wish I could be saying them everyday to people. Getting them tattooed on me would give me more reason to talk about my feelings. The musical world is quite an inspiration for tattoo artists and tattoo lovers – it gives us so much material, so much to work with.

I recently noticed I had neighbors that were significantly tatted and this tattoo diary documents my neighbor Dan and his memorabilia tattoo to the band Stretch Arm Strong. The skull is always a desired art piece among men and Dan knew the perfect artist who had done some striking skull pieces before. The artist, also his friend, James McGrory specializes in detailed-style of tattoos which mainly includes a lot of dramatic shading for effect. The skull represents death, or loss; the roses represent life, or victory.

James put a lot of thought into this tattoo and is one of the many who gets tattoos for deep, significant meaning. The banner of the tattoo reads: Is The Victory Worth The Loss? These words were inspired from the lyrics of Stretch Arm Strong's song, "Pursuit of Happiness" in which the song questions one's inner strength against society being put to test. Stretch Arm Strong is a hardcore punk band from South Carolina and is categorized as being in the Melodic, Positive Hardcore genre. Dan appreciates this band for their intelligence and social awareness. Many of the band's songs and albums have donated money for serious causes and advocated many organizations with hotline and contact info in the liner notes of their CD's.

They are a band that have intentionally and consciously created lyrics that are youth-friendly and more positively oriented than the typical hardcore band's lyrics. And after having spoken with Dan for a while I could see why he loves this band and wanted to get something of theirs memorialized on him. Dan also believes in positivity and leading an influential life. He gave me an example of what the lyrics meant to him: If he had the opportunity to get together with a girl that his roommate liked, would it be worth getting the girl to lose their friendship? And that made it clear to me why Dan has chosen these lyrics to be words he lives by. They represent the choices we make in our lives.

Dan is currently working on other tattoos that commemorate influential bands. "Music is the only way I survive".