

# ARTIST'S STORY



**Sam McAinch**

Bassist – Various Artists

Warwick, Radial Engineering, TC Electronic



*Basses, Amps & Rock'n Roll.*



Sam is a freelance bassist with most of his work coming from the corporate/cover band scene. Whilst being hired by many different artists he gets to play a variety of gigs including weddings, corporate events, festivals and pubs.

Sam has several projects on the go at the moment. His original band "Welcome To The Numb" have just completed their latest EP. In January 2020 they released their first single called "Storm", which was going to be launched soon but due to the current circumstances they have decided to periodically release each song and plan for a proper launch gig when music venues are open again. They recently played at The Brighter Days Festival in Bright, Victoria; a massive charity event raising money for sick children. Another project that Sam is involved in is "The Australian Toto Show"; this band features some of Melbourne's best musicians and they aim to have the show ready for when they can do live shows again post COVID-19.



Sam is currently using several brands that Amber Technology distributes in Australia. There are a number of situations where he is required to de-tune his bass. This is where Warwick has an advantage over his other basses.

Sam's Warwick Corvette \$\$ 5 string can handle the lower tunings as it has a couple of features that help. The 4-piece neck adds an incredible amount of stability. Also, the 2-piece bridge allows Sam to increase the break angle of the strings which gives the artist some added string tension. This makes the bass feel like it's tuned regularly, something that is uncommon with de-tuning. In addition to this, with the two humbuckers and pickup switching (Series/Single/Parallel), the Warwick allows a huge variation in tone. This means he can use one bass for a huge range of gigs, everything from country gigs to progressive rock gigs.

A big part of Sam's setup is his pedalboard. He has tried almost every board on the market, but the Warwick RockBoard is incredibly versatile and lightweight. With a large portion of his gigs having little setup and soundcheck time, he likes to have everything streamlined. The Rockboard and Module setup allows him to patch everything together superfast. Sam is currently using a Warwick RockBoard 4.1 with the Mod 3. The Mod 3 takes care of all of his ins and outs including his Moog Synthesizer (Bass in, Moog in, Amp out, Bass DI, Moog DI, IEC Power). Another great benefit of the Warwick RockBoard is the amount of room for mounting gear underneath. He has all his bass effects on top and underneath he also has a Radial Mix-Blender (which blends his Bass and Moog signals together before sending it to his amp), and Radial JDI Passive DI which he uses for his Moog. Radial make some of the best stage tools. Sam has always loved the sound he gets from the JDI (the Jensen transformer really adds a nice warmth). The reason he supplies his own DIs is because he prefers to have as much control over his sound as possible. You would be surprised how much a low-quality DI can impact your sound. Sam has this saying "Your signal chain is only as good as the weakest link". Also having the RockBoard Flat Patch cables allows him to achieve a tidy and compact setup. They have a really small profile allowing you to maximise your board real estate.

If anyone is in the market for a new pedalboard range or they want to streamline everything, Sam would recommend checking out the Warwick RockBoard range as there are various sizes and variations to cater for all types of musicians. If you are wanting to take your setup to the next level, he highly recommends checking the offerings from Radial Engineering.

When Sam isn't playing bass at gigs, he also hangs out with music instrument retailers in his day job as Account Manager MI for Amber Technology.