

I'm here to put forth a little short history about Brony Music. In case you were unaware, a brony is a term for an older fan of My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic cartoon. While there are various youtubes out there on what a brony is or why they exist I am trying to bypass that for now and focus on one particular part of this rather big community, the music. While My Little Pony is a cartoon, one thing it often features is music, and in this case music made by the show's song composer **Daniel Ingram** and the background music by **Will Anderson**. Suffice to say it is this excellent music within the show that has lead and inspired those to make music within the brony musical community itself.

Brony Music is simply music made by bronies about the show. It remixes or covers the show's music, samples dialogue from it, or can be completely original vocal or instrumental. In the end it is music that is clearly inspired by the show. It can be electronic, it can be rock, it can simply be any genre. It is therefore not a music genre at all but a well-connected community of musicians and fans with the same interests shared. Let's make no mistake, while this DIY music and most of it freely available, there is some immense talent in this musical community. Many of these are full-fledged young musicians with tracks that are on par with any other successful non label artist on youtube or soundcloud While this documentary features the artists and tracks that have the most significant popularity on youtube and amongst fans there are over a thousand musicians putting out similar pony themed tracks in the space of just over a year. This is a scene that is still going extremely strong and continues to grow and shows no indication of stopping.

This article is designed to look at that first year, 2011, and how this all came to be a brief history of how this all came together. We'll be highlighting the most important and popular artists and be playing and highlighting some key tracks in a virtual timeline to show you how this all fell into place.

Let's begin with the show itself, it debuted on **October 10th, 2010** on the Hub and was produced by Hasbro. It didn't immediately make a sizable impact or aim to divert from its target audience of young girls and their parents. It took some time for a male fanbase to emerge. It happened slowly with the site 4chan being a major champion for the show. There was one musician in particular on 4chan that was the specific origin point for brony music. That is **Eurobeat Brony** (also known as **Odyssey**). He was already a eurobeat musician who like a lot of other bronies discovered the show through 4chan. As he says "a good series is a good series regardless of its target demographic" and so there developed an adult fanbase for the show that first organized around 4chan. He was the first to make a cover of show's song, and "Evil Enchantress [Super Euro Mix]" was born and posted on 4chan on **January 27th 2011**. Like many brony tracks you can see this as a remix or a cover tune of the original tv show song but it was an instrumental. Shortly after he made an album cover and people got the idea that it should be a full-fledged album. Eventually he had eurobeat tracks for most of the show's songs as they continued to premiere on the series and a real album was eventually released on bandcamp on **March 26, 2011**. While his tracks are entirely eurobeat and mostly instrumental covers it was tracks like "Luna (DREAM MODE)" that were original and song-based that pushed the idea of what could be done by brony musicians. It helped that Eurobeat was extremely good at the music that he made from the beginning.

Just as there was a single originating point for our community there was also a second artist that joined in to take that idea in different directions and that person was **Chain Algorithm**. He put forth likely the second pony track ever, about 2 weeks after Eurobeat Brony. "Friends Forever Mix (My Little Pony Remix)" debuted on youtube on **Feb 11, 2011**. Like a lot of what would come after he sampled the music from the show but also re-arranged lyrics as well and with a pmv (pony music video) as well. It's still on youtube today and is an important testament on how important youtube is to the brony community and what our music could look and sound like. Part of the reason for the brony music's success has to go back to Hasbro itself. Many other company's could have quickly moved to protect their trademarks and shut down this music based on copyright concerns but Hasbro has allowed the music and the many youtube videos about their show and allowed this community to emerge and flourish. Truly MLP has become an amazing meme and music scene due to this freedom and ability to go truly viral in the internet age.

Anyway back to Chain Algorithm, he's one of the most musically diverse artists on the scene, not choosing to specialize in one specific style. He like most of the brony community published his music freely and was intended to be publically available w/o purchase. If there is a track that I think that should be mention as a fan favorite it would be "Rainbow Dash Likes Colts" which was a sarcastic reply to Renard's accusations of Rainbow Dash's tomboy behavior accusing her of being gay (**Released April 13, 2011**).

Now who is **Renard** you may ask? Well he only dabbled with a few pony tracks and wouldn't necessarily be called a "Brony Musician" in the conventional term. He's what we have seen as a brief visitor to Equestria who made music about the show (possibly mostly in jest) and then quickly left. What makes him an important footnote is he was a well-known and extremely prolific internet furry musician before MLP and also influenced a pretty famous brony song afterwards. He put out the "Rainbow Dash Likes Girls EP" on **April 16, 2011**. While that only has one real pony track on that, he followed that up with the album "A Picture of Finn Farting" on **May 20, 2011** with "Got My Pony Spam For You". Now whether you see these tracks as trolling our community or just noticing us and saying hi is up to interpretation. As part of the love & tolerate moto of our community it really is unimportant, but he was a well-known artist who happened to notice us and likely got others to take notice as well. One thing that we owe him was Wooden Toaster's adapted track "Avast Fluttershy's Ass" which was adapted from Renard's alias Kitsune² track, "Avast Your Ass" which he put out in 2008. Like our own brony version with Fluttershy's vocals added on, it became it's own meme and had plenty of remixes by other artists and eventually adopted as a key track by the brony community.

There are other musicians like Renard that became some of brony music's one hit-wonders by outside musicians, such as the well known hip-hop track "Pony Swag" by **Swagberg (July 6, 2011)**. Later was **Ken Ashcorp** with his electro house track "20% Cooler" (**November 16, 2011**). But let's get our timeline back on track and see what occurred back in April of 2011 and see what brony musicians emerged from the community as our own scene began to really form together.

DJ Alex S put out his first pony remix (Cutie Mark Crusaders -Dubstep Remix) in **April 2011** and was soon recognized by not only the fresh new brony community but other electronic producers and DJs. While his output is more sporadic than many of his brony musician peers his mix of dubstep, glitch, and electro is unmistakable and tracks like "Party With Pinkie" (**September 3, 2011**) have become anthems of the community and represent the power that dubstep has towards a youthful new generation.

A very important brony named **Makkon** released "Luna Deos" on **May 3, 2011**. Elected the top Luna song by Equestrian Rhythm it was dedicated to Luna, introduced only briefly in the end of the second episode, and started a flood of tracks that were dedicated to this character. It was very much an original instrumental and more importantly part of a series of orchestral (ie classical) music to emerge from the community. In many ways Makkon is one of the most important brony musicians and part of the heart and soul of the community through his moderating and creation of MLR.

The **mylittleremix** forum was home to a majority of the brony musician community and a training ground for musicians to hone their craft and be with their peers. The forum opened in late **June 2011** after a community series of projects called the **Remix Wars**. The Remix Wars originated in **June 2011** as well and resulted in 4 rounds of community remixes over several months where the community openly collaborated with each other, remixing each other's work and collaborating. It's this summer-long collaborating and remixing spirit that continues to this day and with many great tracks continuing to get the remix treatment by new and old artists. Remixing and collaborations are a key part of what makes the brony community such a tight-knit musical community. Other events such as Toast Beard also began around this same time (in May 2011) but we will discuss this more in a bit.

The first person who joined MLR and who helped assist in creating the forum was **Not a Clever Pony**. She became a key player in Brony Music's being seen as a respected musical output through her many prior years in audio engineering and music production. She put out on bandcamp the ep "Princess Luna: As Imagined" on **May 27, 2011**. These were hybrid mixes of both orchestral and darkwave tracks and were all based on the popular side character Luna. This ep avoided both samples and show covers for original themed instrumentals and stands as one of the best single releases from our community. It featured the extremely popular track "For The New Lunar Republic" which was of the same name as a fanfic dedicated to the show and it quickly became one of its most famous tracks. She left the community due to "health issues" putting out the compilation "Princess Celestia Is Best Pony" as her swan song they but revealed that she was alive and well in 2012.

While the majority of tracks from the community are made electronically there are portions of the community that defy this trend. **ISMBOFepicly** ("ismbof = *I Set My Bronies On Fire and then a misspelling of "epically"*) is one of these artists that can do great do great electronic tracks (see "Hoity Toity's Fantabulous Swirly Toilet") but also excels at guitar based material such as "Gimme R D (Of Loyalty)" released on **June 12, 2011**.

Acoustic Brony emerged around this same time and featured great acoustic rock from the 2 person British brony team. (See: "Crepuscularity (Twilight Sparkle's Theme from **June 12, 2011**)" They weren't bound to just acoustic music as they had the occasional rock song, made some chiptunes ("Pinkie Pie Party [Sugar Rush]") and produced other electronic music ("Colgate's Quest"). They have later collaborated with MandoPony quite frequently who too made guitar-based as well as electronic pony music. **November 2011's** "A Long Way from Equestria" was his solo acoustic demo which led to the fully orchestrated collaboration between the three bronies. It documented the social shunning of 2 fictional bronies who are ridiculed and put down for attempting to counter the cynicism prevalent in "this world of ours" before indicating that we'll continue to try to make the world a better place.

Finally completing our focus on rock music within 2011 we'd have to mention **Tarby** as an important rock artist, but we'll talk much more about him a bit later. So let's move onto **Bronyfiend** from Finland, who emerged with Pinkie's Manebanging Telegram in October (**Oct 27, 2011**) as one of the few artists doing metal versions of show tracks and quickly became a fan favorite for loads of metal covers of show tunes. We're also glancing over **The Beatle Bronies** who changed Beatle music into pony music with some carefully crafted lyrical changes and continue that direction until this day but have expanded their band members and increased their skill at doing so.

While we've gone on the rock and metal tangent for a bit let's go back to music in June of 2011. While we're going back into electronic music that doesn't mean that it has to be light and boring. Let's look at **KeepOnRockin'**, a well known and respected Hardstyle artist from the Netherlands who's first tune we heard was his hardstyle remix of the **Wooden Toaster's** "Avast Fluttershy's Ass" (**June 26, 2011**). While as we talked about before there were many spin-off remixes of this track this one is clearly one of the most amazing. A lot of other classic hardstyle followed and he clearly is one to seek out who has brought hardstyle to a community that needed a harder edge.

While not always harder, faster is another direction an electronic artist can go and that describes **Foozogz** music perfectly (See: "Fluttershy Likes Being Nice"). Foozogz is an artist comfortable with: breakcore, speedcore, chiptune, picopop, and drum & bass just to name a few but they can always be described as having a very fast tempo. Using show samples and fast paced music he put out, *My Mind is Full of Pony* in **July 20, 2011**, one of the top tier of albums from the scene.

Wooden Toaster we've mentioned a few times already and he absolutely needs to be. Wooden Toaster actually goes by two names and half his tracks are listed by his alter-ego Glaze. He specializes in dubstep, electro, and with the occasional vocal tracks. Well known for tracks such as "Pinkie's Lie", "Avast Fluttershy's Ass", "Nightmare Night", "Beyond Her Garden" and the popular remix of "She's a Pony". Of course if you needed to focus on one anthem that likely would be "Rainbow Factory" (**August 16, 2011**) which actually came before the grimdark fanfic followed. As most people know it has become the most heavily remixed of probably of all brony tracks.

While we're talking about superstars of the Brony music scene let's also cover **Jackle App**. Known as Griffin Village for the classic vocal synthpop tune "Summer" (**August 14, 2011**) which was

recently compiled and remixed onto his Seasons album along with the tracks Winter, Autumn, and Spring. , He's also done a variety of bandcamp releases as well and has released some classic brony tracks such as "I Love Everything", "My Destiny Is A Rock", and "You Gotta Glitch" among many others. He does work in a lot of various genres but its vocal led electropop that's he's most well known for. Unlike most brony fans he's chosen a griffin for his avatar, hence his Griffon Village alias.

Another incredibly important brony artist would be **PinkiePieSwear**. While they have only a handful of tracks to their name their importance and the style they've brought into the community cannot be ignored. Tracks like "Flutterwonder" (**August 16, 2011**) took show vocals, sliced and reassembled them over gentle trance music. "Sunshine and Celery Stalks", "Trixie's Good Side", and "Hush Now Quiet Now" all continued this amazing style and that's been echoed in plenty of artists since. Both PinkiePieSwear and Not a Clever Pony (along with Makkon) helped form the mylittleremix forum. Both have retired from pony music but their popularity of their music and the importance of their contributions have not diminished to this day.

SimGretina is another artist who has a pronounced following and for good reason. He was quick to become the master of remixing show tracks into a progressive house style. Tracks like "At the Gala (20% Cooler Remix)" (**September 03, 2011**) have all the trademarks of the original tracks, vocals and verses are still present, but these are fully augmented into dance music anthems. Simgretina may have 2 other aliases, and they make non-pony tracks with all 3 of them but lucky for us he has continued a string of great pony remixes for songs as quickly as the show makes them.

Some bronies have done a good job of throwing a specific style of music out the window and going a lot of directions with their music. **General Mumble** is one of the bronies to quite adept to change and willing to make a lot of polished electronic original tracks and remixes for the community. "Scratch vs. Octavia (MLP Main Theme Remix)" (**September 04, 2011**) is a perfect example, with the MLP main theme "redone" by the 2 competing in-show musicians, with electronic vs orchestral meeting each other. They have a number of albums on bandcamp, a remix album on there as well, and have made many classic tracks (like "Spike" and "More Than Chicken") for Toast Beard. Mumble eventually became one of the most prolific brony musiucians.

When speaking about MLP themed orchestral music one would have to be insane to not include **Dr. Dissonance** on the short list of early top artists. His skill is in composing modern classical around MLP song re-interpretations and in creating many unique inspired themes from scratch. His work ventures into more atonal work at times and he has been involved in soundtracks for the Equestria Fallout Fanfic with his dense and original music. He finally has a release available on bandcamp and plenty more tracks on his youtube such as the classic "Art of the Industry (Rarity IS Industry)" a beautiful and inspired interpretation of Art of the Dress into a classical retro-industrial gem (**September 10, 2011**).

The same show song can be interpreted by others artists completely differently and **Tarby's** interpretation as "Hide The Body (Art Of Distress)" (**September 11, 2011**) goes to show how differently brony musicians can translate a track into a unique vision. It's from a section of

"Something Broke: The Continuing Tale of Pinkie Pie & Ponycide" which is his notorious one man-project rock opera that was dedicated to the grimdark fanfic saga of Pinkamina. Whether you see it as an album of multiple tracks with one concept or one 20 minute track with various sections and movements it's an amazing piece of work and the one he's most well known for. However it would be a shame to overlook all the diverse rock, music that Tarby released before it, going from pop to metal, and consisting of both instrumental and fully formed songs. While some of his great Toast Beard entries and various tracks are not on his youtube they are worth hunting down as they are fantastic.

One artist who should need no introduction at all would be **Silva Hound**. He's been dominating the brony music scene with house music from early on and it is dance-floor friendly tracks like "The Seventh Wonderbolt" (**October 7, 2011**) that have made them one of the most popular musicians. He's put out several French House inspired albums, modern styled House Music, and has often injected electro, hip hop, and dubstep into the mix. Silva has done multiple bandcamp albums and ep's, many remixes, and has had a steady flow of single tracks that have a continued a winning streak and a massive following in the community of fans and artists alike.

Speaking of prolific pony producers (pun) **[voodoopony]** is another great example. [voodoopony] was a very active brony musician who keeps his pony samples at a minimum but excels at instrumental hip hop and downtempo electronic. He had not only had an album on bandcamp in 2011 but had 3 of them by October and all with solid material. This third disc consisted of a few new tracks and mostly a variety of remixes of significant MLP musicians such as Jackle App - You Gotta Glitch [Voodoopony's Antivirus Mix]" (**October 10, 2011**) As should be evident remixing is an integral part of the brony music scene and has been since the Remix Wars and mylittleremix site went live and [voodoopony] was a prominent remixer in 2011.

We've mentioned Toast Beard several times and you can't forget to include the person who organizes that event every week, **sci**. Since May of 2011, they have been running this weekly event which challenges the community to create music based on specific themes for the week and recent episodes. Many classic tracks have come out of Toast Beard and it is very importance in keeping artists influenced by the show, thinking outside of the box, and allowing them to get feedback by their peers. Sci himself needs to be recognized for his 4 track ep "Vinyl Scratch Will Kick Your Ass" EP (See: "Vinyl Finds a Fight" **October 11, 2011**) which combined a variety of artists tracks and sources into a plunderphonic stew that sounds very little like what it sampled and has one of the biggest lists of bronies sampled in a single project. It's definitely one of the more unique sounding offerings and part of a series of amazing downtempo and leftfield tracks that we've seen from him before and since.

One of the more unique sounding artists to emerge towards the end of 2011 would have to be **SoGreatandPowerful**. They incorporated an electronic lounge sound to their complex electronic music which picked up where PinkiePieSwear left off (also favoring cut-up character vocal samples) but quickly made it clear they were going an entirely different direction with their music. In 2011 they only hinted at becoming the innovative artist and a production wizard that we

know today but the signs really are all there in that initial music such as "A Beautiful Heart" (**October 23, 2011**). We've seen many more amazing and ornate tracks emerge in the months after his debut and he's become one of the most respected artists in our community since.

One of the genres of music that's been missing from a lot of pony music in 2011 would have to be rap music. While that has slowly been changing thanks to events like Winter Rap-Off it was clear that in 2011 **Mic the Microphone** is single-handedly the biggest rapper in the brony music scene and often applying his skills to electronic and rock music as well as straight hip-hop. "Beyond Her Tomb Rap" (**October 25, 2011**) was one of the most well known electro-rap-rock anthems done with Wooden Toaster, who did the background music for the original track. Another brony involved with that same tracks and who remixed the final product was **The Living Tombstone**. (See: "September" **November 5, 2011**). All three were involved on "September", "Sister Hate" and "Good Old Days" which are also clear audience favs. Tombstone is an essential part of this successful trio and has put out massively popular dubstep and electro tracks of his own ("Rainbow Nukestep", "Like a Spinning Record"). Tombstone has also remixed many high profile tracks such as JackleApp's "Beyond Her Garden" and "Summer" and Alex S's "Party With Pinkie" and continues to remix to this day. He went on to become the biggest superstar of the brony community until he left spearheading the Five Nights at Freddy's song wave and moving to other tracks and remixes.

While many pony artists are young adults some even younger prodigy's exist in the community. **Omnipony**, who has also put tracks out as Omnivore, was only 14 years old when he made fantastic Drum & Bass, Trance, and Dubstep tracks (like "Dragon Greed" or "Clouds"). He had two 5 track ep's in 2011 on bandcamp and continued to put forth some great singles that energize the community and that channel some amazing production and power. (See: "Clouds" **November 5, 2011**)

The great thing about the Brony community is just how quickly new people can show up and make a quick impact on the community and capture their attention. **Archie V** from Moscow is just one of these amazing new artists who entered the community in December and landed like a sonic rainboom. (See: "Rainbow n Dash" **December 11, 2011**) Archie began putting forth some amazing electro house as soon as he joined and went from the new guy to one of our most beloved musicians in just a handful of months. In fact he was the first pony artist to actually be recruited by a music label.

Likewise Aviators joined the community in the beginning of 2012 and became a headliner in but a short few months. Winning Toastbeard after Toastbeard he went on with a long run of albums, collaborations, and fanfare from within the community. More artists rose to the top with their talent and passion since. While some of those covered in this overview have already left the music scene or retired from making new music we continue to see even more musicians join our community in 2012. We certainly have only touched on actually a small portion of the total amount of brony musicians that make music. There were many more unsung heroes out there that also deserve recognition so feel free to check out bronymusic.com if you want to read about those you may have missed. Hopefully this timeline of the scene's origin in 2011 taught you a little bit more about this

scene and turned you onto one of the most amazing musical communities on the internet.