

hard.times Bio:

hard.times is Matt Aasen (guitar and production), Rob Elo (keyboards), Steven Taddei (bass), and Jesse McNeill (Drums); musicians with a serious passion for rhythm, and who all have higher education in music performance. With backgrounds in jazz, pop, ska, soul/RnB, and progressive metal, they seek to meld rhythmic jazz, the vibe of R&B and soul music, and the lo-fi genre in the hopes of creating a sound that is both unique and appealing.

The group's sound is almost exclusively based in quintuplet swing: a feel that is most often electronically-generated. While a lot of music that dares to experiment with time signatures can alienate audiences with free-time or atonal harmony, hard.times' goal is to create music that is pleasing to the ear; improvisational, rhythmically and compositionally complex, and experimental, but presented with familiar chords and a tight groove that the listener can understand and enjoy.

hard.times released its debut EP, Portland, in 2019; a FACTOR-funded live-off-the-floor album in 2020; the single 'Clean Dancing' (via Inner Ocean Records) in 2021 (which, as of October 2021, has been added to almost 20 playlists and gotten over 60k streams on Spotify and Apple Music); hard.times released the instrumental beat-tape album, After A Year, in April 2022.