

NOW IS NOT FOREVER

The Comeback Kid

I originally started writing *The Comeback Kid* as a follow up to *Go On.* I thought it would be funny to rap about making a comeback when barely anybody knows who I am. But as the song progressed it became more about facing adversity, learning how to take life's punches, and getting up again and again each time we fall. It's definitely the most hype and energetic song I've ever written or recorded. True perseverance and character come through facing pain, heartbreak and failure. I hope this song can be an anthem that others may sing along with and it can encourage them to keep fighting.

I Know

The melody for *I Know* popped into my head out of nowhere. I remember thinking, "Hmm, this one might work for radio." "Everyday is a new beginning filled with tales untold, through a tainted window we all watch our lives unfold and so it goes..." Life is a journey full of ups and downs, open and closed doors, with pleasant and unpleasant surprises along the way. *I Know* is about this journey we're on, how painful it can get, yet God is in control, "He made you, He won't leave you, forsake you nor deceive you."

Mess

Too often we act like we have it together. But the reality is that we don't. *Mess* is an honest and vulnerable song about my mistakes, frustrations, failures and regrets. It's one of the more catchy songs that I've written, and probably the one that has made me comparable to Jason Mraz. I love the organic sound and groove of the track, horns and strings especially, thanks to Phil Lassiter and David Davidson.

Antidote

All of us are searching. All of us are hurting. Some more than others. *Antidote* focuses on a girl that represents each of us on our quest to find the answer to the emptiness in our souls. I wrote it mainly so that young people could relate to the lyrics and have a hope that there is a solution to their pain, a remedy, an antidote. "There is a lifeline that hides inside the Maker of your frame." It was a stretch for me style-wise, more pop than anything I've written. I hope it can reach as many people as possible via radio or film and TV.

My Story

We all have a story. Every now and then I'll look at somebody and wonder, "What's their story? What have they been through?" Acts 17:26 says: "(God) determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live." I have a story to tell, and God is the author. *My Story* is that story. It has some fun moments, and some heart felt moments, because that's what my life is like.

U Should Know

So there was this girl... Anyways, we were developing a friendship and both knew that we had to move real slowly. But I wanted her to know that I liked her a lot. *U Should Know* is a song of affirmation. I wrote it out of a real scenario, so it was very easy to voice both the concern about moving forward and my strong feelings. "I'm like an ice cream sundae on a hot sunny summer day. I need to find shade but next to you is where I wanna be."

Wish That

It's funny seeing people's reaction to the first line of this song: "Please don't call me anymore." Basically what happened was I got hurt by a special someone and couldn't remain friends because, well, it hurt too badly. *Wish That* is a John Mayer-ish song, being honest about the regret of investing time and energy in a relationship that didn't pan out. My favorite line is "You've been dealt a real good hand and my cards don't have enough hearts to play your silly games." I think people will really be able to relate to this song.

Old School

Old School is a very sarcastic song that gives me the opportunity to let my hair down and make jokes while making a point that I can't please everybody. Over the years a lot of people with good intentions have given me bad advice, believe it or not. Some said I should stop rapping and just sing, others said I should be more pop, while others said more soul... I've heard it all. Over the years I've learned that each of us are uniquely made individuals that must find our own identity and path that God has laid out for us. There isn't a blue print to being original. The song is called Old School because of the production; I love how it turned out. My favorite line is: "They said keep on doin what you do B, and maybe one day you'll end up in the movies, maybe I could play Shaggy in Scooby Doo 3 and co-star with Angelina Jolie..." Definitely the most fun song on the record.

Rain Down

A few years ago I was at the bottom of the bottom: financially, emotionally and spiritually. I was sitting in my room crying out to the Lord, trying to write. I had nothing left to give. That's when these words came out: "Lord rain down, I can't go on without you." I had a chord progression I was working on with a melody, and the words fit perfectly. I didn't really like the song much at first, but I played it for Tommy Sims and he loved it. That's when I realized I should probably record it. *Rain Down* while being serious in content is a lot of fun because of the great groove due to the musicians that played on it.

Just For You

"This one won't be on the radio." It was very freeing to write that line. *Just For You* came out very quickly and easily, almost as if it was given to me. I was trying very hard at certain times to write music that sells, to be relevant, and to fit into a genre. It got very distracting to be quite honest *Just For You* brings everything back to the original reason I started: to please the One that gave me these gifts, to create for the Creator, and to sing back the One who sings over me. I hope this song makes it in a movie some day.

Breathe

A couple years ago I was at a point in my career where I was at a standstill. A lot of things had not panned out and years had passed me by. It was as if my life had taken off and led me to a desert I never intended on visiting, much less dwelling there for quite some time. Sitting in my room with a guitar in my hand, the opening line came out: "this is not the life that I had planned." A few months later I stumbled across Isaiah 43:19: "I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." That is what *Breathe* is about. It is a prayer for God to breathe His life and love into my soul. To bring back to life the dreams He gave me years ago. To "sing Himself through a melody." To give life to the things I touch, to establish the work of my hands and restore to me the joy of His salvation.

