

Matthew Davidson impresses with 'Cross My Heart'

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If there's anything to be said of Matthew Davidson's music, it's that you never truly know what to expect. His ability to capture the essence of his roots in jazz and blues but stay relevant are always what intrigues me about Davidson's appeal.

His second EP, "Cross My Heart" (available now on iTunes), showcases a more mature singer/songwriter appeal. That's not to say that his guitar doesn't take center stage at times, but he weaves it in and out in a succinct manor.

The first track on the five-song album is "Read My Mind." It's perhaps the most "pop" song on the album. Think One Direction with a Southern rock edge. It's safe to say if Davidson doesn't make a career out of being a musician, he definitely can write potential Top 40 music.

"Heartbreaker" follows with a more passionate Davidson, where "love turns to hate then all trust is gone." Davidson's band mate, Greg Walton, from his side project "The Matthew Davidson Band" also showcases keys and vocals on the track as well as "Diamond Ring" and "One More Beautiful Thing."

"Diamond Ring" is the epic rise this EP needed, and the entire song is a dreamy Louisiana listen. Kyle McClanahan, Davidson's drummer for the MDB, also appears on this track.

Hearing the next track, "One More Beautiful Thing" is almost like revisiting a Beatles B-Side. It's got the catchy tunes and harmony the four-some were known for, and Davidson carries this with both Walton and McClanahan. The guitar and drum solos are beautiful.

"Overseas" is my favorite track and final song on "Cross My Heart." It's got a hard beat and a stellar guitar solo that would have Stevie Ray Vaughn stunned.

Overall the album is solid and breaks away from what Davidson has done in the past, which is good as a growing musician (he's only 16). Let's see what's next for Davidson, his career can only continue to flourish.