

SETH MOSELY, 1GN, JASON GRAY, THOUSAND FOOT KRUTCH + MORE!

CCM



GOODGAME & PETERSON

Families On The Run

JUNE 1, 2016

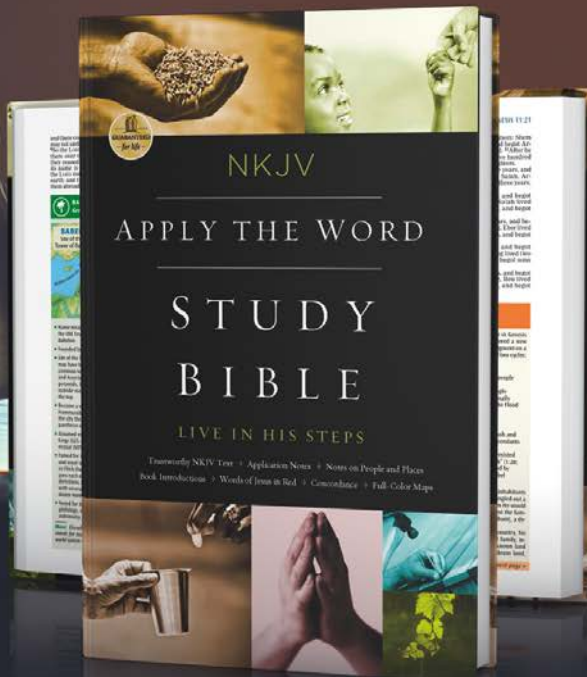
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Peterson/Goodgame

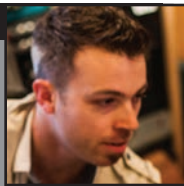
A family affair—friends Randall Goodgame and Andrew Peterson talk about faith, friendship and fatherhood—all with the backdrop of their families present. Exclusive!!



(photo: Daniel C. White/@danielcwhite)

Seth Mosely, Pt.3

In our third installment of featuring the *Full Circle Music Show* Podcast, we step away from the iPod to ask Seth Mosley a few new questions.



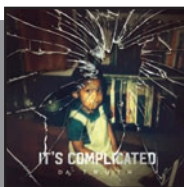
1GN

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Heart Over Matter | When I was a music student at **Belmont University** in the late-'90s-early '00s, one of my instructors introduced us to a book called ***The Inner Game Of Tennis*** by **W. Timothy Gallwey**. Although I also enjoy tennis, at the time, it was a head-scratcher as to why our percussion teacher was using it as suggested material.

Back then, I bypassed it, but the suggestion stuck with me over the years, so I finally gave it a read some time after I graduated. There's no specific correlation between playing tennis and playing the drums in the book, in fact, the direct relation of tennis to anything else is the premise—our conscious mental capacities get in our way, if we can quiet our minds and learn to trust our instincts more, we will have more success in anything we do.

I recalled this as we were interacting with **Seth Mosley** of **Full Circle Music** for this edition of *CCM Magazine*. If you're a fan of Christian music then you're already familiar with Seth's work and influence within the industry. While he collaborates with some of the most successful individuals across all musical genres and sheds light on those experiences though his **Full Circle Music Show** podcasts, as I listen to those, I begin to feel like I'm reading *Inner Game* all over again.

Then I found myself asking, "When do I allow my own self to get in the way of what God is doing?" and "How can I grow my soul so my mind won't take over?" *Inner Game* is a great book, I'll probably read it many times. Further into this edition of *CCM*, Mosley suggests some great books for those wanting to learn more about the music business. For the questions above, for my life, I found myself going back to this simple verse: *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.* (**Psalm 119:11 NKJV**).

I've been challenged—no matter what we do, let's remember to keep implanting the Word of God into our hearts. When we get out of the way (like me, have you a prayed that prayer often?), I want it to be the Word that takes over!



Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Sparkman', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Sparkman

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june 1, 2016



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GOODGAME/ PETERSON

Andrew Peterson & Randall Goodgame Families On The Run

Fatherhood, family & friendship—Touring and family life are now synonymous for the Goodgame's and Peterson's, how do they parent so well on the road?

By Matt Conner

We might not realize that our favorite artists, the women and men who visit the music venues around us, have lives of their own. Many of them wave goodbye to a spouse and kiss their children goodbye countless times each year as they seek to share their music and message with fans, old and new. It's the sacrifice they make to leave home for the calling they feel to use the platform God has provided.

Two of our favorite songwriters have erased the lines that traditionally divide home and highway. Both **Andrew Peterson** and **Randall Goodgame** have walked the well-worn path of leaving family members behind for another run on the road. However, in recent years, both of these fathers-of-three have learned to ingratiate their families with their musical gifts for a new approach to their artistry—and a newfound joy in making music.

Andrew Peterson and his wife, **Jamie**, have three children: **Aedan** (17), **Asher** (15) and **Skye** (13). Peterson's earliest recordings and tours featured his wife singing along, but these days everyone has found a place within his music. Asher played drums on the release tour for ***The Burning Edge of Dawn***. Skye often sings both on records and at various shows. Aedan not only joins in musically, but he's also provided the illustration for his dad's album covers.

Most recently, Peterson's work as an author of the Christy Award-winning ***Wingfeather Saga***—a four-book fantasy/adventure novel series for young adults—has given him another artistic outlet with which to impact families. A Kickstarter campaign to animate the young adult series was overwhelmingly successful, which means Peterson's books will soon be pitched as a multi-season animated series with some of the folks behind ***Veggie Tales*** and ***How to Train Your Dragon*** hard at work on the project.

Randall Goodgame has found success both as an independent artist and songwriter for bands like **Caedmon's Call**, **Andrew Peterson**, **Jason Gray** and others, but these days, his heart is pouring everything into the highly successful children's music series ***Slugs & Bugs***. The recently released ***Sing The Bible Vol. 2*** features scripture songs tied with memorable melodies and is the fifth album in the catalog. Goodgame's wife, **Amy**, and their three children—Livi (15), Jonah (13) and Ben (8)—can be heard on multiple recordings, and Livi even joined him for a recent U.K. tour, taking her studies on the road.

We recently sat down with these longtime friends and family men for a closer look at fatherhood in the limelight.

ON HAVING A PHILOSOPHY AS BOTH PARENT AND ARTIST

Randall Goodgame: I don't really have a working thesis for being an artist as much as I do have a working thesis for being a disciple. It sounds super churchy, but being an artist means that you are trying to be a good steward of the gifts and the role you've been given as an artist. You find out what that means and you do that. When I think of fatherhood, it's the same way. We have been given kids, so now, not only am I the leader of the home, but I need to shepherd these kids.

Andrew Peterson: As a songwriter, and from a vocational standpoint, a vocation in the Christian original meaning of the word like calling, I have felt called since I was about nineteen to use my gifts as best I can for God's kingdom, whatever He says that looks like. I am always trying to decipher that and be obedient and live that out. When it comes down to parenthood, what we have tried to do is to reflect that idea to our kids, to help them find their calling. We want to demonstrate what it looks like to stumble along and try to let God direct your steps with your life.

How do you first assess the gifts you have been given? With the help of community. That's what I hope for my kids, whether they are artists or whatever it is they are doing. It is less about a philosophy of the arts than it is about discipleship and being obedient with the gifts you've been given. I want my kids see what it looks like to take these crazy gifts and find a home for them in the kingdom. Then I want them to find their gifts and ask God how they fit in the kingdom, too.

ON HOW BEING AN ARTIST AFFECTS HOW THEY PARENT

RG: Being an artist has influenced how we teach our kids. I can think of lots of opportunities they've had to grow and learn about the gospel because I am an artist. I know Andrew [Peterson] talks about the gospel throughout his entire show, and when he's on the road with his kids, they're hearing him talk about Jesus. He's not going to have to worry that they're twenty-five years old and don't really know the gospel, you know? I think that way about my kids, too, as they come out on the road with me. They've heard me articulate the gospel so much. As a Christian and an artist, that's a blessing and a gift.

AP: I don't have bitterness towards my parents or how they raised me, but I did grow up in a culture that didn't really value



the arts. My parents did to a point, but I always felt like I did not have a place. What do I do with this? All my friends are doing everything else and I didn't know anyone else who was doing what I was doing. In our house, we've tried really hard to show that stories matter and books matter and music matters and art matters.

Finding a way to express those things is a really high calling, so we try to fill our home with as much good music and good movies as we can. Randall [Goodgame] is so much better at this than I am, but he teaches his children music. When they were younger, he would wake up and teach them music. I am so not good at that, but we try to leave the guitars out. I'm a big believer in leaving the paintbrushes out, so to speak, and we let the kids explore and show that this is a good way to live out your days. We are trying to find ways to make things beautiful.

RG: Also, who better than mom or dad to model gospel-minded repentance? Sure, I hope I provide a good model of forgiveness, of mercy, of care for the poor, of patience, of courage and stewardship, but for their life with Jesus, they will definitely need humility. They will need to learn how to repent and return to relationship. For better or worse, however we handle our mistakes, that is the blueprint for how our kids will handle theirs.

ON GETTING SENTIMENTAL MAKING MUSIC WITH THEIR KIDS

RG: I remember when Livi sang a harmony part on "Two Shirts" for the first time that wasn't there. It wasn't in the song, and she added it. She just knew what to do, and it was great. I still remember it. I don't know where we were but I remember the feeling. It all hit me at once like, "Oh my gosh, she's good enough to just do *that*." Then it was, "Oh my gosh, I get to do this *with her*." After that it was, "Oh my gosh, she's singing the gospel!" The harmony came on the last line, about whoever wants to be first

must be last and servant of all, and I was so glad it was the end of the song, so I could collect myself.

AP: When I'm rehearsing with the family, I'm the bandleader but I'm also the dad. I'm in charge of pushing them to excellence, but I'm also in charge of shepherding their hearts and being gentle. The first time we took out the family band, I was exhausted. I'm used to playing with players who show up at the rehearsal and already know the songs versus ten and twelve year-old kids where I have to teach them how to play a G-chord. I was like, "Is this worth it?"

We did six or seven shows together, and the first show was pretty scary. There were mistakes and tears. But at the end, I had this amazing realization. They would come out with me and play the first four or five songs, and then I would take the middle part of the set, and then they would come back out at the end of the show. When they left, I missed them! I would think, "These songs sound kind of wimpy and empty without them."

It wasn't that I was indulging my kids. I actually needed them. What you want is to forget there's a band playing with you. You want to play the music and not think, "Are they going to hit the right notes at the right time?" because you're fully engaged with the audience. You want to trust the people behind you. By the end of the tour, there were several moments, where I realized that they were holding it down like that, and I could barely finish the song. I was so proud of them.

ON APPRECIATING EACH OTHER'S ART FOR THE FAMILY

AP: Skye went to sing background vocals on the first Sing the Bible record. Randall [Goodgame] is always so good about inviting our kids. We would get the call, and she would get excited about singing on the record. She came home one day from that

session, and she was filling up her drink at the fridge's water-spout and she was singing, "Therefore, there now is not condemnation for those who are in Christ." I said, "Wait, what song is that?" She said "Oh, that's one of Mr. Randall's songs."

She took a big swig and I was like, "That is the verse? Those are the verses that he's putting music to?" Those are verses that have taken my whole life to understand. The fact that he's writing music that is getting lodged in her head to where she is just singing it to herself while she walks around the property... I got a lump in my throat when that happened. I thought, "If only I had begun to pay attention to those verses when I was twelve! Then, I'd be perfect!" [Laughs]



RG: To see my friend create something so fantastic with the *Wingfeather Saga* had its own just sweet pleasure for me. My kids are readers. They love to read, and they're discerning readers. My son Jonah's favorite book is still ***Watership Down***, and Livi was reading it for the third time the other day. They like great books and when they found out that the *Wingfeather Saga* was maybe going to be an animated series, they flipped out. They were like, "Let me see your phone! I want to see the Kick-starter video about it." Then they watched it over and over again.

It's because the story was so captivating for them. They grew up with them. When they were little, I read them to them. When Jonah finished the *Wingfeather Saga*, he said, "I cried, dad. I just cried and cried at the end." I'm going to get teary right now just thinking about it, but we talked about the gospel and he totally got it at eleven. He got it. Right away, in our conversation, we were talking about Jesus!

ON THE BEST ADVICE THEY'VE RECEIVED AS PARENTS

RG: For me, it was from our friend **Bob Goff**. He taught me to try and say "yes" more to my kids. He challenged me to think of how much God says "yes" to me. I get "yes" from God thousands of times every day. "Yes, you can wake up. Yes, you can breathe. Yes, you can make breakfast, enjoy eggs and toast, make coffee for your wife and hug your kids as they stumble into the kitchen rubbing their eyes."

Of course, just like God, I still say "no: many times a day. We don't watch television on school nights, but they still ask. We don't have dessert every night, but they always ask. They ask for crazy stuff like, "Can I ride on the roof of the car while you drive?" and we say "no" because we're sane. But I used to say "no" as my default. Now, I look for chances to say "yes" that surprise them. Once they kept asking for "one more" Oreo cookie and I kept

saying yes until the package was empty. You can't do that every time, but it sure is fun sometimes.

AP: Make sure your kids know that you like them. When Jamie and I first got married, some good friends gave us tapes of their father's Bible college teaching on marriage and family. I think the title of the series was *How to Raise Kids You Can Like*. It was a revolutionary idea to me at the time, and his teachings helped us create an environment in which our kids never thought they were the center of the world, and yet their identity as children of God was affirmed over and over again.

It's not that they're perfect, but that they're perfectly loved by God. We want them to know that we delight in who they are. One of the things he said was that most kids, if asked, would say that their parents loved them. But if you asked if they liked them, a lot of those kids wouldn't be so sure. It's one thing to feed and clothe your kid. It's another to know about their favorite bands, to enjoy conversation, to invest as much in their hobbies as their grades, to treat them like people who may teach you at least as much as you teach them. CCM



SETH MOSLEY

Q&A With Seth Mosley of Full Circle Music

By Kevin Sparkman

In the past few issues of *CCM Magazine* (see May 01 and May 15, 2016 editions under the “MAGAZINE” heading on CCMmagazine.com), we have featured excerpts from **Seth Mosley’s *Full Circle Music Show*** podcast, an ever-increasingly popular program among music fans, those working in or aspiring to work in the music business, and simply just forward-thinking individuals searching for an inspiring word. Week after week, Mosley invites a who’s who of industry veterans to join him in fruitful discussion about various aspects of the music industry, but it’s the last group of fans mentioned above that has us interested in turning the tables and placing him in the hot seat.

So, we ask Mosley a set of questions anyone would want to inquire of an award-winning producer and songwriter. Whether your aims are to be an artist, executive, band leader—or an architect, athlete, pastor—Mosley’s ongoing message of servitude and “being second” rings true for all of us.

CCM Magazine: You have written with many established songwriters—as you began to gain experience, what led to a sense that your writing was worthy of collaborating with more established writers? And thinking back, any advice on new songwriters and the types of co-writing opportunities they need to pursue (or NOT pursue) to become established in their own right?

Seth Mosley: This is always my number one advice to anyone wanting to be more successful in songwriting or anything in life: Don’t be the smartest person in the room. If you are, then it’s

probably time to find a new room. I've always tried to surround myself with people who are better than me in every aspect. There are certain strengths I have, sure, but I'm never going to grow if I'm never challenged.

The key to this is the ability to overcome fear and insecurity. It can be a scary thing to go into a room with someone who you've been a fan of for your whole life. I've been there multiple times. My company is named Full Circle Music because my first record I ever got as a kid was **Newsboys**, and the first one I produced in Nashville was Newsboys. Talk about a trip. My first vocal session with [**Michael**] **Tait** I was so nervous, because, why should he listen to me when I say "Do that take again," or, "I know you can sing that line better." It helps to remember this one key fact—even the best of the pros are all insecure too. No one is ever exempt from this fact, no matter how successful you are.

In a way, by doing this, and surrounding yourself with people more experienced and smarter than you, every situation becomes a mentorship for you.

CCM: We've often heard that a great producer has to have an "ear" for music—take that somewhat obvious, overused, and vague statement, and provide for us some practical dialogue on both what types of artists and at what talent levels producers like yourself are eagerly looking to work with. Also, how and/or when is it appropriate to speak into what an artist is wanting to record, for both of your sakes?

SM: For the first part of the question, I totally agree. It is all about having an "ear" for music. And even more than just an ear for music, it is having an ear to hear what people are saying. This may seem obvious, but the best producers and songwriters are the ones who just simply listen and ask the right questions to the artist. We are very much servants to the artist and how



can we serve them if we don't know where their hearts are? We certainly aren't going to write or produce music that resonates with where they are and is authentic to them, if we don't become good listeners. That is precisely why I never think that just sitting in a co-writing room talking for the first hour or two is a waste of time. In fact, it's the opposite.

For the second part, there are two types of music producers: Ones who impart their thing on a project, and the other who brings out the best version of an artist and conveys it to a record. Our goal 100% is the second. The worst thing I could ever hear is, "That feels like a Seth Mosley record," or, "Those records sound like Full Circle Music." I really love working with artists who have a strong creative center in themselves. Audiences are really only looking for one thing nowadays—AUTHENTICITY. I don't personally believe it's authentic to have a producer spoon-feed a "sound-du-jour" to the artist and then they go play it live. I think it certainly can work that way, but the artists who stick around, are the ones who know who they are and what they have to say. This doesn't mean every artist has to write 100% of their songs on their own, or produce all their own stuff. They really do need us as co-creators. But it does mean that they have to have a strong creative drive in and of themselves.

CCM: In your opinion, what's the current climate for up and coming music/artists these days? Are you finding it to be a talent-rich environment with the potential for some budding mega-stars—or are you experiencing more of a follow-the-leader right now? If the latter, how could you encourage the young music community to grow?

SM: I want to go back to my first response and re-iterate the importance of not living your life out of fear. If you're living a life out of fear of, "Will this work?," or, "What will other people think?," that's the greatest strategy to never stand out. Here's the

thing that always helps me: I just know that what I do isn't for everybody. Try to please everyone and you please no one.

I think it is an incredibly talent-rich environment, and the opportunity is limitless for artists and writers who never had platforms like YouTube and social media to get their music out FOR FREE. There are no longer any gatekeepers between the fans and the creators. It's really mostly about who has the most passion, drive, and stick-to-itiveness. Even the process of making records has changed and needs to change.

My encouragement is to listen to your fans. Here's a story that might help clarify this point. I did a record with a country act who had been pretty successful in Canada, had some radio success, and built a healthy touring business and fan base. They wanted to try and experiment with their die-hard fan club and let them be the A&R for the record. So we did exactly that and sent them the fifty-or-so song demos that we had in the hat for record potentials. They picked the Top 10, and we recorded only those ten. Then, we took it a step further—they picked the radio singles. Want to know the crazy thing? Every single went Top 10 on radio, they won CCMA Group of the Year, Two of the singles went Gold, and they hit their first #1 Radio Single as well. Pretty good proof that that is a good way to do things. You're not just making music for yourself. If you are, go for it, but count on having a hard road ahead of you.

CCM: Among the many services you offer to artists at Full Circle, what are you most passionate about?

SM: Our passion is always the same: great songs. What excites me is seeing the walls fall down between genres. We used to only be known as a contemporary Christian music company. Now we have radio singles in mainstream rock, mainstream AC Radio, and mainstream Country Radio. It is just evidence to me

that great songs surpass genre. Genre is really only about how a song is produced. I look up to producers like **Rick Rubin**, who has done some of the greatest records in the world, and none of them sound alike.

The one thing I'm really passionate on now, is to help other creators make great songs, well produced. Same focus. Just helping to scale what we do and what we offer. There are some really cool things in the works that we will be announcing to the world soon surrounding this idea.

CCM: Now finding yourself in more of a leadership role, we'd like to know some stories of when you've been the one receiving an education on a particular project.

SM: Every time I'm invited to speak at a seminar or conference, the one place you won't find me is hiding in the hotel room when I'm not on stage. I'm right there in the audience, listening to every speaker and taking notes. I'm a rabid learner. It's what I do for fun. I don't really have a ton of hobbies other than learning new things every day.

Lately my biggest "a-ha" moment was from a speaker named **Darren Hardy** and it was about prioritization. He calls it the **Warren Buffett Method**:

1. Make a list of all the things you need to do.
2. Circle the Top 3 tasks that create the most value for what you do.
3. Delete all the rest.

It's number three that separates the successful from the unsuccessful. You might ask, "What does this have to do with songwriting or artistry?" It has everything to do with it. If you're a songwriter, your number one most valuable task is writing songs. If you're an artist, your number one most important task

is connecting and growing your fan-base. The key is to be able to either delegate everything else, or just simply don't do it!

CCM: What are the top 3 things holding people back from making money as an artist or songwriter?

SM: 1) Lack of Focus, 2) Fear of Failure, 3) Not keeping a SERVANT mentality.

CCM: Okay, some “Do’s & Don’ts”—First time songwriting with a professional?

SM: Do—Listen to what they have to say. Don't—Run over them with your ideas.

CCM: Do’s & Don’ts—First time recording a demo/EP, etc.?

SM: Do—Do it right. You only get one first impression. Spend lots of time or money if you have the resources. Don't—Don't just record the first songs you write. If you've written five songs, chances are, you're probably not ready to record a 5-song EP. Go write another five to ten and see which ones rise to the top.

CCM: Do’s & Don’ts—Choosing a band name and/or stage name?

SM: Do—Make sure it's not taken by another band [laughs]. Don't—Don't worry too much about the name. It's really not as important as people think.

CCM: Finally, what books/literature do you recommend for advancing your music business career?

SM: Donald Passman's *All You Need to Know About the Music Business*. Jeffrey and Todd Brabec's *Music Money & Success*. CCM

1GN



1GN – Glue Crew

With a new name and a new sound, 1GN unites under a steadfast mission

by Jen Rose Yokel

It's been four years since five young women came together under the moniker **1 Girl Nation**, sporting a bubbly-pop sound, colorful personalities, and a positive message aimed at tween and teen girls. But life changes fast, bringing challenges and changing perspectives. "We've all just grown as women," says **Carmen Hadley**. "We've grown spiritually, we've grown as people... as our band is changing and as our music and sound is changing, we feel like it's a new season for us."

After a year off from touring and making music, that new season led to a complete reset for this pop group. Shortening their name to **1GN**, **Hadley**, **Kayli Robinson** and **Lauryn Taylor Bach** are back with a more focused message and a maturing sound inspired by the biggest names in pop music. Yet under the sparkle and polish and fun dance moves, their friendship and compassionate hearts shine through and carry them into the latest adventure of their life in music.

Growing Up 1GN

In 2012, 1GN came together as contemporary Christian music's positive answer to the multitude of Radio Disney-friendly pop groups, complete with tight harmonies, a playful sound, and a stylish look. Before long, they were making splash with their debut album and the catchy single "While We're Young." Their covers of popular songs, from **Colbie Callait**'s anthem, "Try," to the persistent **Frozen** hit "Let It Go," brought them a new level of exposure on social media, and their passion for mentoring young

girls took them around the country with mother/daughter conferences.

Still, while their youth made them relatable, they recognize this was only the beginning. Hadley recalls celebrating her twenty-first birthday shortly after the group came together, and how just a few years changes everything: "I feel like I was such a kid in some ways, and here I am a few years later... we've all entered into our mid-20's."

"We've grown up," Robinson agrees, "like every human being year after year. We've been faced with different situations personally and as a band, and that makes us stronger."

Some of those situations have been joyful ones, such as Hadley's new marriage, an experience that, "opens up your eyes to what life is really about." Others have been heartbreaking. Bach chokes up as she shares about her parents going through a divorce. "Even at age twenty-four, it's so hard to see your family fall apart, but it has forced me to rely on God and to rely on these girls who are my sisters." Still, this painful experience drives her desire to encourage others through music, especially, "other girls walking through the same thing."

"You're so brave and strong," Hadley assures her. "Lauryn, it's so courageous of you to want to be an encouragement to people going through the same thing." And when it comes down to it, that courage is the heart of 1GN.

New Name, New Sound

Thanks to social media and positive buzz, 1GN's audience has grown up too, making this the perfect time to step back and take a new look at the band's direction. Before writing their sophomore album, the girls took a year off from the road to reset and

find a fresh perspective, and changing their name to 1GN was a natural first step.

From there, they began to team up with Nashville pop producers **Jordan Sapp**, **Dave Wyatt**, and **Steve Wilson** to find their driving message and hone their maturing sound. “We wrote every single song on this record, and we’re super proud of that” says Bach, while Robinson adds, “we have a lot of creative control over who 1GN is. For me, that’s been a massive thing.” And through that creative freedom comes a chance to write more personal songs out of all they’ve experienced.

For Hadley, her marriage influences songs like “Cinema,” a song “reflecting on life, on why I’m doing what I’m doing,” because, “it’s not easy being away from your husband or away from your family and friends [to do music]... if my life were a cinema, what story would it tell?” Bach processes the breakup of her family through songs like “Panic,” which, “talks about going through hard times period, and to not panic and freak out, but trust God is in control and has a plan.” While there’s no shortage of past Christian teen pop tackling purity and modesty, 1GN gives special attention to the rising power of social media in songs like “No Filter,” “Haters,” and “Guard Your Heart.”

“A lot of us think our value nowadays is how many ‘likes’ we get on a picture,” Bach explains. “And I have to remember, ‘What does God think about me?’ We’ve become a society where we look to social media for our acceptance and worth...we hope the messages of those songs will help combat those other messages being thrown at people.”

While that sounds like weighty topics for an album of ear candy, there’s still plenty of room for pure fun. “Get Hype,” a song they describe as one of their “crazy ideas,” is an EDM dance track with

a colorful video that pushed the girls into a whole new territory. Robinson laughs as she recalls working with **Chase Benz**, a professional choreographer whose credits include **Britney Spears** and **Rhianna**, to create the “Hyphy” dance for the video. “It was really not easy to do. He pushed us to our limits with those dance moves.”

United As Family

Like anyone who makes a career and ministry out of sharing music, the ladies of 1GN know it takes consistency to stay grounded in a tough and unpredictable lifestyle. Robinson cites her family as her compass when life gets overwhelming: “I’m really close to my family, and sometimes I just need to step away and talk to them. They keep me grounded and they know the real me.”

Hadley agrees, and also adds the importance of staying connected to a church at home in Nashville, “a church family that’s constantly asking how I’m doing...making sure that I’m plugged in and not just out there traveling around. Just having mentors in your life is something I’ve learned is so key to staying on a good walk with God.”

And then there’s the fans, an extended part of the 1GN family. “When we go to a show or check on Facebook messages and hear how our music has touched somebody’s life or changed them for the better, that is always a good reset for me,” says Bach. “Like Carmen said, there are days when you get down, but when you remember how God is using you, it keeps you going!”

And then there’s the tight bond that the three share, through the good changes and the hard ones, and the simple, fun moments together. Hadley shared a little insight into the connection they share with a story from the making of **Unite**. “We would record



all day, so sometimes it would be super late at night, and we would finish a song on the record and have a dance party. We would have a strobe light, turn all the lights off, and have a big dance party—just for us—after every song was done.” Unified, and stuck together like glue. **CCM**

REVIEWS

june 1 2016

JASON GRAY

WHERE
THE
LIGHT
GETS
IN



TFK



EXHALE

IT'S COMPLICATED

DA T.R.U.T.H.



INIC GONZALES
MY LIFE IS YOURS



Jason Gray

Where The Light Gets In

(Centricity)

FOR FANS OF:

Josh Wilson, Brandon Heath

WE LIKE: "The Wound is Where The Light Gets In"

★★★★☆



When you buy a **Jason Gray** album, you can always count on those two things to be present on every song: the hook and the heart. ***Where The Light Gets In*** has these aplenty with one meaningful, memorable pop cut after another. The time, Gray nods to an overarching theme of finding joy in the trial, and it's the principal theme behind tracks like the opener "Learning," "Sparrows" and "Learning To Be Found."

However, "The Wound is Where the Light Gets In" is the album's centerpiece, a co-write with **Jars Of Clay's Dan Haseltine**. The song is a beautiful reminder that brokenness leads to healing, the cornerstone of a fine pop album that will lead the listener to wholeness in Christ.

—Matt Conner

Thousand Foot Krutch

EXHALE

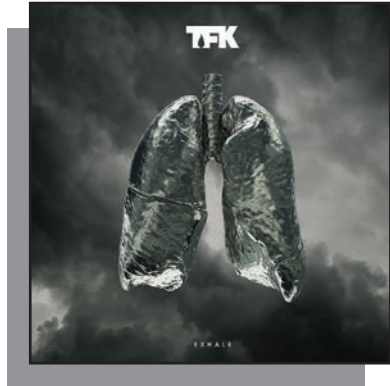
(Fuel Music)

FOR FANS OF:

*Rage Against The Machine,
Decyfer Down, Pillar*

WE LIKE: "Running With Giants"

★★★★☆



On 2014's **OXYGEN: INHALE**, Thousand Foot Krutch definitely delivered the anthems, but took a somewhat minimalist approach to its otherwise aggressive formula. Come the bookend follow-up EXHALE, singer/guitarist **Trevor McNeven**, bassist **Joel Bruyere** and drummer **Steve Augustine** are back to cranking the amplifiers past eleven, perhaps turning in their most explosive album to date.

In fact, nearly every song is an epic stadium shaker with messages that regularly root for the underdog, call for all to stand steadfast in their beliefs and persevere amongst any obstacle. TFK may have had its fair share of road blocks along the way, but the entirely independent band since 2012 sounds more confident and committed to fighting the good fight than ever before.

—Andy Argyrakis

Da' T.R.U.T.H.

It's Complicated, Vol. 1.

(Next Music)

FOR FANS OF:

Lecrae, Flame, Tedashii

WE LIKE: "Heaven"

★★★★☆



Often times the idea of questioning faith is frowned upon, but GRAMMY nominated hip-hop artist **Da' T.R.U.T.H.** rolls up his sleeves and digs right into the complexities of religion throughout ***It's Complicated, Vol. 1.*** Rest assured, he's a committed believer, but rather than pretending like every question has an easy answer, the rapper/songwriter paints an authentic picture of someone in the sometimes sticky midst of seeking truth.

It's not a concept album per say, but the theme unites much of the diverse project that also finds Da' T.R.U.T.H. employing cutting edge production with splashes of booming bass, glistening electronics, unpredictable rhythm loops, loads of memorable rhymes and even commentary from international speaker and Christian apologist **Dr. Ravi Zacharias.**

—Andy Argyrakis

Nic Gonzales

My Life Is Yours

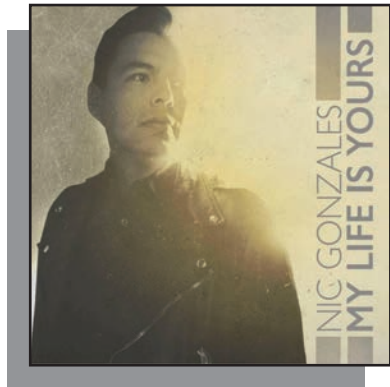
(Lucid Artists)

FOR FANS OF:

Danny Gokey, Salvador

WE LIKE: "This Is Freedom"

★★★★☆



Making his solo premiere apart from the long-lived group, **Salvador**, **Nic Gonzales** offers up a six-song EP entitled ***My Life Is Yours***. The aptly titled project is a homegrown mixture of pop, folk, and vocal virtuoso complete with Gonzales' wife, **Jaci Velasquez**, who collaborates on the album. Salvador fans will enjoy learning a new side to their favorite front man as the EP showcases all the new feels. The EP is a perfect Father's Day soundtrack, as we are allowed an inside look into life lessons being passed from generation to generation in the Gonzales family—a deeply personal project, yet applicable to everyone within earshot. Additionally, it was announced that all of the proceeds of *My Life Is Yours* will benefit the **Tennessee Autism** organization, all the more reason to pick up a handful of this collection for any occasion.

—Kevin Sparkman

Social Club Misfits
The Misfit Generation

(Capitol CMG)

FOR FANS OF:

NF, Group 1 Crew, KB

WE LIKE: "Courage" (feat. Tree Giants)

★★★★☆



Comprised of South Florida natives **Martin** ("Marty") and **Fernando** ("FERN"), the **Social Club Misfits** unveil a diverse blend of hip-hop, R&B and pop throughout their Capitol CMG debut ***The Misfit Generation*** EP. Though the duo is brand new to some, they've actually been making major viral waves since 2012, garnering over 11 million audio and video streams on the heels of several previous EP and full album releases.

With all that in mind, the pair already sounds like veterans throughout these five compelling cuts, but nonetheless demonstrate a fresh hunger of wanting to reach the world at large with a message of following God's will rather than the world's allure.

—Andy Argyrakis

Various Artists

Country Faith Hymns

(Cracker Barrel Music)

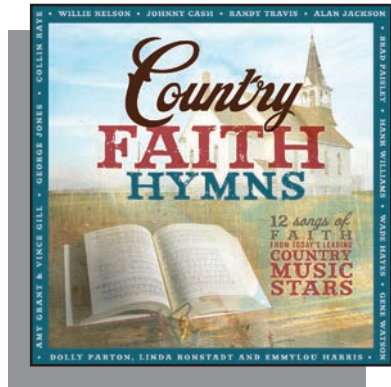
FOR FANS OF:

Willie Nelson, Brad Paisley

WE LIKE: George Jones'

"Softly and Tenderly"

★★★★☆☆



Cracker Barrel's newest release **Country Faith Hymns** makes perfect sense given the restaurant chain's focus on the intersection of country and Christian music. Veteran decorated country stars like **Willie Nelson, Brad Paisley, Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris**, and **Johnny Cash** all contribute their versions of several classic hymns to this straightforward collection.

Christian music fans will likely gravitate toward **Amy Grant** and **Vince Gill's** "Rock of Ages," which brings a more contemporary delivery to what a largely traditional set of spiritual songs. Still it's the gravity of musical heavyweights like **Cash, Nelson, Hank Williams** and **George Jones** who add their resonant spirit to familiar hymns.

—Matt Conner

Jon Bauer

The Light in Us

(Self-released)

FOR FANS OF:

Travis Ryan, Joel Engle

WE LIKE: "Say Something"

★★★★☆



From the opening cut of "Your Love is Beautiful," **Jon Bauer's** newest album bursts forth with infectious melodies anchored in hope and healing. The Juno-nominated pop artist and worship leader releases this seventh album in June, and it's clear the 20-year musical veteran has found his stride on ***The Light in Us***.

From upbeat tracks like the title track or the aforementioned opener to more reflective moments on "Come Alive" and "Say Something," Bauer's message of hope in suffering should speak to deep places within the listener. "I want to hear you so I'm listening," Bauer sings on the latter. Audiences should expect the Spirit to say something meaningful to them on Bauer's newest full-length album.

—Matt Conner

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