TY HERNDON
by Tamela Meredith Partridge
“Our Brown County” magazine
Nashville, IN
© 2008

For country music singer and songwriter, Ty Herndon, the best time in his life and career is right about now.

"My current album, Right About Now, reflects on putting my past to rest, getting healthy, and making music that matters to me today," says Herndon, who has four years of sobriety under his belt. "It was time for so many other people in my life before, now it's my time. And just in the nick of time, this album is about coming back and making music better than I have before."

Herndon is the first country artist signed by Titan-Pyramid Records, whose label roster also includes such artists as Eric Carmen and Snoop Dogg.

"The people who believed in me and my talent made me even more serious about this," Herndon says. "There were so many songs that fit where I am at emotionally right now, and I wanted to sing about that. Three years ago, I couldn't sing the way I used to. I can sing these songs now. My throat is clearer than it has ever been before, and that feeling is just awesome. Isn't this a miracle? I have a light in my eyes. And this is a happy place to be."

Right About Now features eleven tracks and the talent of some of Nashville's top songwriters on such selections as "Someday Soon" (Darrell Brown/Radney Foster/Keith Urban), "There Will Be A Better Day" (Darrell Brown/Beth Nielson Chapman), and the title cut (Darrell Brown/Michael Peterson).

"I realized with this project that I've never really lived in Nashville and made a cd before," Herndon says. "Living in Nashville now, I really got involved with the writers, engineers, etc, because I didn't want anyone on this project that I didn't know where their heart was. As a result, I received huge support for this album and was embraced by Nashville, in what I felt was for the first time."

Herndon, a Butler, Alabama, native, honed his craft at an early age by playing piano and singing gospel, bluegrass, and country music.

After high school graduation, Herndon moved to Nashville and paid his musical dues by performing at Opryland, joining The Tennessee River Boys (later to become Diamond Rio), touring military bases with Bob Hope's USO show, and becoming a first season finalist on the television talent show, Star Search.

Moving to Texas, Herndon developed a loyal following by performing the club and honky tonk circuits. In '93, he won the Texas Music Association Entertainer of the Year award and landed a major label recording contract later that year.

Since his '95 debut, Herndon has released five albums, a greatest hits collection "A Few Short Years", a Christmas cd "A Not So Silent Night", and such chart-topping singles as "What Mattered Most," "I Want My Goodbye Back," "Loved Too Much," "A Man Holdin' On (To A Woman Lettin' Go)," "Hands Of A Working Man," and "Steam."

"My number one philosophy in regards to recording is being able to relate to the story of a song," Herndon says. "A song really has to fit the artist singing it, or it just doesn't work."

TY HERNDON
By Tamela Meredith Partridge
"Country Weekly" magazine
Nashville, TN.
© August 11, 1998

Ty Herndon's hopes for his latest album, *Big Hopes*, are coming true.

It's first single, "A Man Holdin' On To A Woman Lettin' Go," shot into the Top 5 on both the Billboard country singles and CMT video charts.

"I'm thrilled with that," Ty says. "I'll take a career of Top 5 records."

The second single, "It Must Be Love," is about to come out and another four releases may yet be gleaned from the album.

"For the first time, to tell you the truth, the singles are pretty well laid out on this record," says the 36-year-old Epic Records artist, who made his first splash three years ago with his No. 1 hit, "What Mattered Most."

"Usually, on the last two albums, we were kind of second guessing: 'Well, maybe this one. No, maybe this one.' But there are some standout songs on this record."

"I can tell you that 'Tears in God's Eyes' with Patty Loveless is incredible," says Ty. So are 'Hands of a Working Man' and 'Big Time Dreamer.' I think we'll go with at least six singles."

His confident attitude toward his album mirrors his life, he says.

"I believe that an album reflects where you are in life at the time. All three of mine have definitely done that. The first album is so much about my family and dreams, and working to get there. The second is full of faith and recovery. And this one is, like, 'Come on, everybody, it's time to rock.'"

The flip side of this solid professional coin is a remarkably happy private life, which Ty credits to three generations of strong women—grandmother Myrtle, mother Peggy, and wife Renee — and his third year of sobriety.

“Grandma Myrtle is a lady with a great sense of humor and a lot of wisdom, 85 years old and still going strong,” he says. “She has a radio show in Butler, Alabama, every Sunday afternoon on WPRN, and she’s been accused of being the Howard Stern of senior radio. She teaches aerobics four days a week and plays a mean ftat-top guitar. I debuted my first single, ‘What Mattered Most,’ on her show.”

Peggy and Renee were Ty’s day-to-day support group during his struggle with addiction. “There’s no time to feel sorry for yourself,” he say calmly. “You move one, turn the page, get to the next place. If something doesn’t work out, too bad— close the book, make something else work.”

He and Renee, a registered nurse, met in her hometown of San Angelo, Texas, when Ty was making a name for himself as a young country singer in Dallas.

“It was a long-distance romance for a while,” he recalls. “We have always been best friends, and friendship like that can turn into something more.”

Renee nurses people with AIDS and other infectious diseases.

“I call her ‘The Healer.’ and I support her dream even more than I do my own because it is more important,” says Ty.

He frequently holds benefits for groups such as PANDA (Pediatrics AIDS Network of the Dallas Area) and, the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program.

Now he and Renee are settling into a new house in the Dallas area.

“I still have boxes up to my elbows,” he says. “My wife lets me do the unpacking, because I’m too picky about where things are. I like to know exactly where everything is. I even get mad at myself when I don’t put something back.”

“I couldn’t find the fireplace starter the other day. It was right where I’d put it. Renee knew where it was, but she wanted to prove a point. Finally she said, ‘Are you looking for this?’”

It was one of many light moments in what is now a happy life.

“I am seeing all my dreams come true,” Ty says. “I don’t know if I can dream any bigger. It’s phenomenal.”

His remaining dreams are few.

“I’d like to see my next No. 1, and I’d like to see my album in the Top 10. I have something to say and, I want to keep making music and see if I can make all this happen.”

If his life were a song, Ty knows which song it would be. He's already recorded it.

" 'Living in a Moment,' " he says without a pause. "There's a line in it, *'Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, always beside you, forever in love.'* That lyric always strikes me right between the eyes—the people you love are going to be around for you from now until way after. That will always make it my favorite song."