

lines, vines, and trying times

By Julia Montoro

I discovered the Jonas Brothers by accident sometime after the release of their first album. I generally like all their stuff, but here's an honest rundown of my feelings about their latest effort.

1. World War III: For an opening track - and one written by the soulful youngest Jonas - I was surprised to dislike it so much. It's got a good beat, but the lyrics fell flat for me. A weak opener and my least favorite track, but it only gets better from this one.
2. Paranoid: It's no wonder this was the album's first single. Catchy and cute. Classic Jonas.
3. Fly With Me: Really like the chorus and Nick's vocals on this one. Even a "Peter Pan and Wendy.." mention!
4. Poison Ivy: A good track overall. Kinda catchy. Who knows I could see this being released as a single as well, though I prefer other tracks on the album.
5. Hey Baby: The horns are great. Love the sound in this one. And again, love the vocals here.
6. Before the Storm (ft. Miley Cyrus): With or without Miley, I would have liked this track, which she co-wrote with the brothers. I have to say that I usually do not enjoy her voice, but she didn't take anything away by overdoing it on this track, so I was completely satisfied. I enjoyed the lyrics. Good vocals!
7. What Did I Do To Your Heart: You'll hear a harmonica and a fiddle among other things - and they really add a lot to the country-ish vibe. Different - in a good way!

8. Much Better: An ode to the fans. I don't care if they deny it - there's a clever mention of a certain country superstar in the beginning - which made me laugh actually, but the song is actually a good one.

6. Black Keys: By far, my favorite track. Penned by the youngest Jonas - who does the lead vocals too - it's creative and sweet. I prefer the songs where you can see Nick's style in the lyrics. (Still amazed I don't like his WW3....) The youngest Jonas is pretty thoughtful and deep for his age.

7. Don't Charge Me For The Crime (ft. Common): A definite change of pace. And an interesting one. Common? Who woulda thought! An enjoyable track. I wouldn't encourage the JB to do this sort of thing often, but the track succeeds in my book.

8. Turn Right: Has an emotional vibe. Genuinely nice, heartfelt song.

9. Don't Speak: Enjoyed the vocals on this one. Lyrically sound as well. One of the better tracks.

10. (Bonus Track) Keep It Real: A bonus I could have done without to be honest. It's not horrible, but it sounds like exactly what it is - a song they sang for television! Reminds me of some of their earlier songs...only I liked those better than this one.

Overall, I enjoyed the Lines and Vines, although sitting through "WW3" and ending with "Keep It Real" were Trying Times for me. If you love the Jonas Brothers, this album won't disappoint.

jack's mannequin

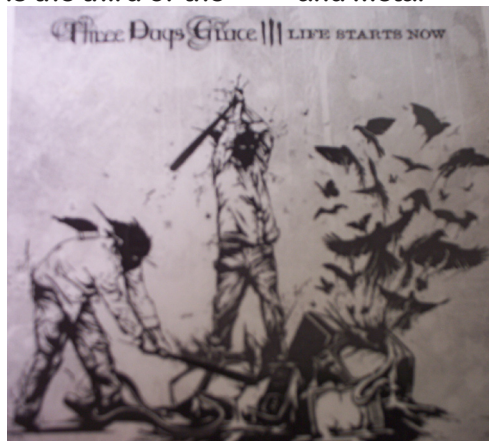
by Caitlin Waring

"I wanna hear some music, now that they're driving us all underground." Andrew McMahon, lead singer of Jack's Mannequin, wrote these lyrics to express what his band is all about. They want real music, with a real meaning, that is meant for an audience of real people. Jack's Mannequin strives to stay away from the mainstream music. They are an indie pop-rock band originally from Orange County, California, and they sound a bit like The Fray and Jimmy Eat World. The band consists of lead singer and pianist Andrew McMahon, guitarist Bobby Anderson, bassist Jonathon Sullivan, and drummer Jay McMillan. McMahon began his musical career in another California band called Something Corporate. He sang and wrote songs for the band for a few years, until they went on a break in 2004. In 2005 he started Jack's Mannequin, and they have since been signed to Sire Records, and have put out two albums. The first album is called Everything in Transit. It starts out with "Holiday From Real," a catchy and upbeat song about a special friendship with a special girl. The album gets a little slower, and refers back to McMahon's break up with a long time girlfriend, with songs like "The Mixed Tape," "Bruised," and "La La Lie." "Rescued" features McMahon's strong voice, emotionally touching lyrics, and phenomenal piano playing skills. The album gets more upbeat towards the end, especially with "Miss Delaney" and "Made For Each Other." On the final day of recording Everything in Transit, Andrew McMahon was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. His sickness gained the album's release much more popularity than they had originally hoped for, and made more people aware of the band and their music. After his treatment, McMahon and the rest of Jack's Mannequin began recording their second album, The Glass Passenger. The album is a compilation of memories of McMahon's sickness and treatment. In "Crashin" he sings about what he wants to get out his music, and what he wants to do as an artist. "Even if your voice comes back again, maybe there'll be no one listening." He discusses failing or succeeding musically, and how it does not matter to him.

three days grace

by Fred Lunt

The much anticipated album "Life Starts Now" is the third of the Canadian quartet Three Days Grace. The album shows a lot of talented singing by lead singer Adam Gontier and some familiar sounds. But they've made several changes to their sound like including guitar solos and more great bass lines. Unfortunately some of the songs are a bit of a step down from their previous work by using sappy lyrics and though they are well written in some cases they are repeated often which can kill the vibe of the song. At points you get the feeling as if they are trying to make "ok" songs into great songs and there are times when it sounds like a reiteration of their older work. But there is hope for songs like "Goin Down", "World So Cold", and the single "Break" with more heavy



sounds. The one thing you must be patient with is the radio overplaying their songs, in One-X their songs were constantly played over the radio that they were practically beating it to death and I would expect the same from them this time. I believe this CD is Three Days Grace in a transitional period of trying to break off from their original sound. Kayte Cesare, freshmen, stated that, "It was cool that they added some piano bits here and there, they did an amazing job" but when asked of how it compared to their older albums she stated, "I like their older stuff better, but I mean, who doesn't?" To some the album may seem a disappointment or a step down, and to others it maybe be a step up from their point of view. But no matter what stick with your band, this is only a transitional CD for a band that has a lot of yet to be fulfilled talent and potential.

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