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Dierks Bentley rewarded for risky songs



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Dierks Bentley, who celebrated his 14th No. 1 single “Somewhere on a Beach” this week, said he lost a lot of sleep over the summertime hit and its follow-up “Different for Girls,” which features Elle King.

“I feel like these last two singles have been big risks,” Bentley said. “My manager Mary and I, we just sweat.”

The decision to release the lighthearted up-tempo “Somewhere on a Beach” was particularly difficult because as Bentley pointed out, “Bourbon in Kentucky” the song he chose to release as the first single for his critically acclaimed “Riser,” “totally bombed.” He had to make sure this time he got it right.



“I think this song was a different type of song for me,” Bentley said of “Somewhere on a Beach,” which was written by Dave Kuncio, Josh Mirenda, Alexander Palmer, Michael Tyler and Jaron Boyer. “Some of my fans were upset. When I listened to it, there’s some intangible quality about that song that made it fun and interesting and it had some edge to it, and I felt like it was new territory for me as a singer.”

“(I went) somewhere totally different with a song and an idea that’s very new for me to sing about,” Bentley said. “It’s a song I couldn’t have sung seven years ago before my daughter Evie was born. I could have, but I would have just sung it from one standpoint. Now I see it all the time. I have my girls ... and I think the world is skewed some ways not in their favor.”