

Billboard

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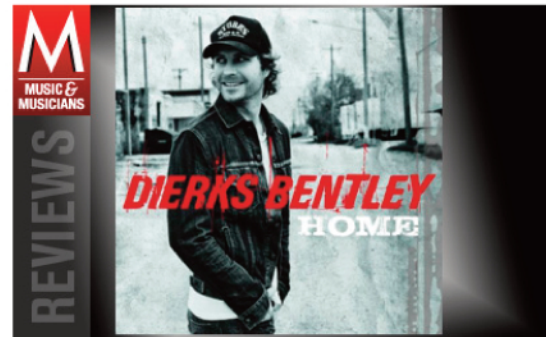
Dierks Bentley, 'Home': Album Preview

by Chuck Dauphin, Nashville

Dierks Bentley

Title: Home | Release Date: Feb. 7

Fresh from his commercial and critical success with "Up On The Ridge," Dierks Bentley (@dierksbentley) returns to a more commercial sound for his latest Capitol Nashville disc. That being said, there are some strong musical statements. "Home," his current single, is one of the best-written compositions of his career, and "Diamonds Make Babies" sounds like it could very well be a strong follow-up. The album already has spawned a No. 1 Country Songs hit in the sing-along hit "Am I The Only One." Other up-tempo fare that will have fans singing along includes "Gonna Die Young" and the churning "In My Head." Bluegrass artists Sam Bush and Tim O'Brien appear on "Heart Of A Lonely Girl," which is one of the highlights of the disc.



DIERKS BENTLEY

Home

[Capitol Nashville]

Contemporary country success is often about establishing a persona and then reiterating it at every turn. Become the "I'm from the country" guy, the "I love America" guy, the "I love to party" guy or the "I'm free to party in the country 'cause I live in America" guy and hammer that home. Dierks Bentley is a big-tent, big-idea exception to all that. He's comfortable on stages with bluegrass legends Del McCoury and Sam Bush or rock luminaries like the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, and he knowingly knocked himself off country radio playlists with 2010's rootsy, acoustic-based *Up on the Ridge*. *Home* is Bentley's return to radio-ready sonics, but Bentley inhabits that territory without pandering or dumbing down. It opens with the uptempo romp "Am I the Only One" and is back-loaded with delights including "When You Gonna Come Around" (a lovely duet with Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild) and the haunting closer "Thinking of You." —Peter Cooper

THE NEW YORKER

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LISTENING BOOTH:

DIERKS BENTLEY

Home

By John Donohue

After a foray into bluegrass in 2010, with the lauded album "Up on the Ridge," which found Dierks Bentley working with the likes of the Punch Brothers, Del McCoury, and Alison Krauss, the country singer dipped back to the Nashville well for his new album, "Home." The freewheeling vocalist gets misty-eyed about America on the title track, but he also delivers a fun-loving set of songs about raising hell, the allure of the great outdoors ("what happens in the woods stays in the woods") and the perils—to the man—of diamond engagement rings (they "make babies"). Listen to "The Woods":