

(9/8):

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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Jason Aldean's new album title 'They Don't Know' could have extra meaning

So Jason Aldean, recently snubbed with zero nominations from the Country Music Association's fall awards, drops a new album on Friday called "They Don't Know."

Fans could take that title to heart. Maybe "they" as in the bigwigs at the CMAs, really don't know what country music fans like. Or maybe they have wearied of a certain sound in music.

Aldean is the reigning entertainer of the year, at least according to the competing Academy of Country Music association. But the ACM is a West Coast outfit; the CMAs are from Nashville. So the fans can decide if the competing outfits are making the right nominations or not.

At a recent press event promoting the new album, Aldean said: "Somebody's gonna get left out and it seems to be us."

Meanwhile, fans can take comfort in the new music. The first single "Lights Come On" is vintage Aldean - references to drinking and partying and girls abound.

There are 15 tracks in all - a duet with Kelsea Ballerini "First Time Again" is worth downloading; and "Whiskey'd Up," may be the best of the batch. Written by Rhett Akins, Michael Carter and Shane Minor, Aldean sings that beer with the boys or wine with another woman doesn't stir up his memories.

"But my heart starts hurting when the bourbon starts burning, and I can't help but touch that stuff. It's just like you, warm and smooth, even though I know that you don't miss me, it's like you're here with me."

Yup. That's country.

Then there's "Bad," which strikes me as aptly named. And there's a definite drinking vibe to the album. In addition to "Whiskey'd Up," there's "All Out of Beer" and "Any Ol' Barstool."

Overall, it's a solid Aldeanesque effort with a mix of country-pop uptempo songs and some ballads.

#### COUNTRY ACTS COMING TO TOWN

The summer outdoor season is almost over - it will wrap up at Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre with two more shows - Saturday is Toby Keith with Eric Paslay and on Sept. 16 it's Florida Georgia Line with Cole Swindell, Cadillac Three and Kane Brown.

Of course, Chris Stapleton plays the LouFest in Forest Park on Saturday.

If you head over to Ballpark Village, you can hear Old Dominion on Oct. 1.

And as the weather cools down, the fall and winter booking list will get longer with country acts at places like the Pageant - where one of my favorites, Brothers Osborne, will be playing on Jan. 19.



