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## Rising US country singer Tucker Beathard talks rock influences ahead of Dublin show



Listen to any of Tucker Beathard's self-written songs and you'll instantly notice he sounds different to most current US country artists.

The rising star - who is son of prominent songwriter Casey Beathard - has just released his first EP, *Fight Like Hell*, which features the addictive earworm *Rock On*.

The mega talented 21-year-old was always a music fan growing up, but it wasn't the likes of George Strait or Alan Jackson he was hooked on.

Speaking to the Irish Mirror, he confessed: "My favourite band, believe it or not, is Blink 182.

"Rock music is definitely one of my biggest influences in general, because I started off as a drummer and guitar player, so I was into classic rock groups like Led Zeppelin and AC/DC."

But the Nashville-born singer-songwriter doesn't think that his musical influences will hold him back in the ever-changing world of country music.

"The thing about country music is that it's always evolving and growing. It's such a wide genre now, so why not bring something different to the table?

"But no matter what, I think that you can't ever take out the lyrical aspect of it. You can't water down the story and the lyrics, so no matter how rock it gets, I'm definitely going to take pride in the lyrics," he stated.

The last time Tucker came to Irish shores was in support of multi-platinum country star Dierks Bentley during his headline gig in Dublin's Olympia Theatre in April.

That was his FIRST performance outside of the US, and he admits he has been itching to get back every since.

"That was a lot of fun back in April. We were jumping on [Dierks Bentley's] tour for the summer and it started overseas in Dublin.

"I got to go over there, it was my first time ever playing overseas, and such a great experience. I was just so fired up and had to come back as soon as possible.

"I just went over there and done my own thing and I fell in love with playing over there. The audience really appreciate and respect music - more than I've seen in a lot of places - and it's awesome.

"I appreciated that because that was the first time going over there, most people didn't even know who I was - it's just me and a guitar up there, but they're all sitting down and they listened it was cool to see them actually give me a chance."

Tucker is preparing for his first Irish headline show in Dublin's Academy 2 on Saturday, 3 December.

Talking about what Irish audiences can expect at his show, he said: "I like to make it personable. It's about the song and about connecting with the crowd more on a personal level.

"No matter how many people are there, it's like playing in a living room in front of your friends. I think it's awesome to strip it down to the song and where it came from and just connect people."