

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

(4.29.17) <http://www.ocregister.com/2017/04/29/stagecoach-2017-tucker-beathards-ready-for-the-big-time/>

Stagecoach 2017: Tucker Beathard's ready for the big time



As singer-songwriter Tucker Beathard kicked back in his air-conditioned trailer in the artist compound at the annual Stagecoach Country Music Festival in Indio on Saturday, a wide grin spread across his face as he thought about the festival fans singing along to his debut single, "Rock On."

"It's been really awesome," he said of the response to the cleverly worded track. "It just kind of gives you a taste of what's to come. I guess now the goal is to someday hopefully have the whole set be like playing a bunch of 'Rock On,' you know? It's just cool right now to see that it has reached so many people and that so many people actually know it. It's exciting to see what the song has done."

Though his mid-afternoon set on the Mane Stage is Beathard's first Stagecoach appearance, the 22-year-old performer is certainly no stranger in the country music scene. He was born and raised in Nashville and is the son of Casey Beathard, a noted songwriter that has penned cuts such as "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems" and "Don't Blink" for Kenny Chesney, as well as "Homeboy" and "Wrecking Ball" for Eric Church. His brother, C.J. Beathard, is also a rising NFL star who was just drafted as a quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers.

However, Saturday at Stagecoach, Tucker was the star and he was armed with a crop of songs off of his new EP, "Fight Like Hell," which dropped back in October. Though he was a little cooped up before his performance, he said he was out the night before, taking in the set by Friday headliner Dierks Bentley.

"There was just so many people here for him," he said. "It was just, awesome, looking all the way to the back at all of those people. It was a cool night."

Though he has his own set to focus on, he said it was simply "45-minutes of ... work and then some ... whatever" he said with a smile. Since his turn is early enough in the day, he and the band have already laid out plans to take in sets by other artists, most importantly Willie Nelson and Family over at the Palomino Stage.

“That was a name that when I saw it on the list of who was performing, I was like, ‘Holy cow, Willie Nelson?’,” he said. “We’re pretty fired up about that, so we’ll definitely be over there to watch him.”

While the rest of his year is packed with festival performances and a variety of other tour stops, Beathard said he’s just out there trying to “make as much noise as I can” and he’s still actively working to get a full-length album released soon.

His goal at Stagecoach is to just have a good time and put on a good show for the fans that turn out to see him.

“There’s a lot of passionate people who obviously love country music here,” he said. “They’ve been looking forward to this for a while and there’s people that are sitting in the front that probably had to get there pretty early and they haven’t moved. You’ve got to respect that. Playing for people that are that passionate about country music is pretty cool.