

Rolling Stone

Hear Tucker Beathard's Homegrown Five-Song EP

Rising singer-songwriter records a batch of rough but ready new songs ahead of his full-length debut



As the son of songwriter Casey Beathard, Tucker Beathard has been exposed to the craft for much of his albeit short 20 years. He's even been the inspiration for one of his dad's biggest hits — Eric Church's 2011 "Homeboy." Now, the younger Beathard is showing off his own chops on a new EP, *Tucker Beathard: The Demos- Vol. 1*.

Streaming on Spotify and *Rolling Stone Country* beginning today, the five-song collection features Beathard's own southern metaphors (the football game as a relationship arc of "Tennessee") and turns of phrase (the should-have-popped-the-question "Rock On"). A drummer and guitarist, he also plays the bulk of the instruments on the project.

"I've been writing for six years now, and all of [these songs] are meaningful, have a story behind them and came from somewhere. Every song explains some side of me. It's a good representation," Beathard tells *Rolling Stone Country*.

The song "Momma and Jesus" is perhaps the most autobiographical and nods to his wayward ways — which prompted his father to write Church's "Homeboy."

"It's pretty much all about me," Beathard admits of "Homeboy." "I never had fake gold on my teeth or tattoo on my neck, but I went through a stage where . . . my parents were probably scared for me. And I have an older brother who is my best friend and he'd always go to my parents when he knew I was doing something bad."

Still, Beathard, who is currently on tour opening for Maddie & Tae, isn't trying to define himself as a badass. He says the brooding, sometimes sneering "Momma and Jesus" is just him looking in the mirror. "I was always known as a troublemaker, rebel kid. But I'm not trying to promote that. It's just a real song for me," he says.

"And I love my mom. . . and I love Jesus."

Beathard is currently working on his full-length debut for Dot Records.