



JASON MICHAEL CARROLL



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GROWING UP IS GETTING OLD

The accomplishments are impressive enough for any new artist – a chart-topping debut album nearing a half-million in sales, three hit singles from that album (all of which he wrote or co-wrote), a Gold ringtone certification, and opening spots on some of country’s hottest tours. The key to Jason Michael Carroll’s success is evident in every note he sings – live or in the studio – and it lies in his authenticity. Whether it’s the empathy brought to bear on the tragedy of “Alyssa Lies,” the pure passion of “Livin’ Our Love Song” or the youthful exuberance of “I Can Sleep When I’m Dead,” Carroll knows how to connect with fans, and together with hard work, undeniable talent, and good looks, that connection has launched one of country’s most impressive young careers.

It’s a career whose music aptly depicts Carroll as country’s Gen-Y family man, reflecting his generation’s transition from party to parenthood, and able to fully express the joys inherent in both worlds and the tensions that can come in moving from unencumbered freedom to the responsibilities of home and hearth. As a husband and father of four, Carroll sings eloquently about both sides of the equation in songs that recognize the firm foundation that country roots and a sense of community provide in a fast-moving world.

Now, with the April 2009 release of his sophomore album, *Growing Up Is Getting Old* (Arista Nashville), he fulfills the promise of his first record and takes his career a big step forward. The first single, “Where I’m From,” could have come from the pages of his life, and yet paradoxically enough, given his strengths as a songwriter, it’s one he didn’t write.

“People ask me, ‘Do you only record songs you wrote?’ My answer is always, ‘No, if I believe in a song I didn’t write more than a song I did, I’d record it first,’” Carroll says, “and here I kind of had the chance to put my money where my mouth is.” The tale of two men from seemingly opposite worlds who meet by chance explores the similarities that lie beneath most of our differences.

“No matter where life carries you, and it carries us in all different directions, if you boil it down to the nuts and bolts of it, most of us are really the same,” he says. The song is filled with points that hit home, from the seat he occupied in his father’s church and the fact that his son bears part of his grandfather’s name to the affect cancer has had on those close to him. Its authenticity is ideal to an album that finds Carroll digging deeper creatively and solidifying his place in country music.

“You have a responsibility to your fans,” he says, “not only to record songs that are hits but also to record songs that mean something to you and convey to your fans who you are.”

Those songs are all over *Growing Up Is Getting Old*. A Carolina-born preacher’s son raised in a strict household, Carroll threw himself whole-heartedly into life and music when he got the chance. The resulting tension between experience and responsibility, and the hard-won wisdom that grows out of the maturing process have always infused the music he makes. Jason Michael sees himself in songs like the title cut, of which he says, “I don’t think there’s a truer statement out there right now, especially to a father of four who tries to get home as much as I do and who travels as much as I do.” His children – three from a previous marriage – are at the core of Carroll’s identity, and his relationship with them helped bring vocal passion to songs like the cathartic “Hurry Home” and the poignant “Tears.” “Sorry Don’t Matter” explores the cold reality of a betrayed

(CONTINUED)

relationship, while “Barn Burner” gives him the chance to revel in the joy of days when responsibility could be set aside one party at a time. Love’s complexities figure in “Happened on a Saturday Night (Suzie Q),” a story with a rocking pace and a hairpin plotline, “Let Me Go,” featuring a seemingly star-crossed pair of lovers, and “We Threw It All Away,” in which two people rolling the dice surprise everyone with a win. The laid-back anthem, “That’s All I Know,” sums up the easygoing, comfortably fitting philosophy that permeates the record.

Growing Up Is Getting Old found Jason Michael once again working with producer Don Gehman, known for his work with Hootie and the Blowfish, John Mellencamp, Tracy Chapman, and R.E.M.

“We collaborate really well together,” Carroll says. “Now, we butt heads really well together, too,” he adds with a laugh, “but I think that’s part of a great relationship when you have two people with really creative sides who can find a way to get both their influences into what they’re working on.”

The creative tension behind the teamwork produced an album that showcases both the passion and sincerity in his voice and the talent that brought Jason Michael from the Carolina nightspots where he honed his craft to national attention.

He was an unlikely candidate for the clubs. He was not allowed to listen to secular music growing up in North Carolina. In fact, his father once took him to task for having a copy of Billy Ray Cyrus’s first record, but through friends and later at his job in a motor shop, he immersed himself in music and found himself drawn to country. After winning a radio station’s karaoke contest, Carroll was asked to join a local country band in need of a singer. He began paying his dues in clubs, and his mother, who was by then encouraging his dream, signed him up for a televised talent show in Raleigh/Durham. He won, and the visibility opened doors that led to Gehman.

Soon, Carroll was signed to Arista Nashville, and his first album, *Waitin’ in the Country*, debuted at #1 on *Billboard’s* Top Country Albums chart. His first two singles, “Alyssa Lies” and “Livin’ Our Love Song,” shot into the Top 5. He opened for Brooks & Dunn, Trace Adkins, and Alan Jackson, and became part of the 2008 tours of Carrie Underwood and Martina McBride. He was also featured on *Good Morning America*, thrilled the crowd at the CMA Music Festival, and has played multiple times at the Grand Ole Opry.

He quickly learned how his music could truly affect lives, with fans regularly approaching him with stories of the impact that “Alyssa Lies” or “Livin’ Our Love Song” had on them.

“My songs speak so much to so many people,” he says. “I really can’t take for granted what I’m doing, and I thank God every day I have the chance to keep doing it.”

He is especially thrilled with the RIAA Gold Mastertone certification of “Livin’ Our Love Song,” recognizing sales of 500,000 ringtones and ringbacks.

“Standing in line at a bank or at a fast food restaurant and hearing somebody’s phone ringing and it’s my song, that’s pretty cool,” he says.

But through it all, he remains a young man who has not lost touch with his roots, and it’s obvious he’s embraced the wisdom he received from a superstar touring partner.

“I was hanging out with Brooks & Dunn on the road, and Ronnie Dunn said, ‘Jason, don’t let anything change you. Be who you are. That’s what got you here.’ It’s great advice.”

(END)



JASON MICHAEL CARROLL

Career Highlights

- In April of 2009, Jason Michael Carroll released his highly anticipated sophomore album, *Growing Up Is Getting Old*, which debuted at #7 on *Billboard's* country album sales chart. The disc has produced two more hits for the hot new country star, including the Top 10 single, "Where I'm From" and his latest Top 20 "Hurry Home."
- An accomplished songwriter, Jason has written some of his biggest radio hits, including the back-to-back Top 5 singles, "Alyssa Lies," and "Livin' Our Love Song," which was recently certified as a Gold Mobile Mastertone by the RIAA. He wrote a total of five songs on his debut album, and self-penned three tracks on *Growing Up Is Getting Old*.
- Since exploding onto the country music scene, Jason Michael Carroll has drawn widespread media attention, landing features in *USA Today*, *People Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Country Weekly*, *Reader's Digest*, who listed him among "America's 100 Best," and *Billboard Magazine*, who named him their "Top New Country Artist of 2007."
- Jason has also appeared on several national television shows including "Good Morning America," "CNN Entertainment" and several performances on "Opry Live."
- He has kicked-off major concerts for some of the country music's biggest names, including *Trace Adkins*, *Kenny Chesney*, *Brooks & Dunn*, *Alan Jackson*, *Martina McBride*, *Brad Paisley*, *Sugarland* and *Carrie Underwood*.
- In 2009, Jason teamed up with **National Runaway Switchboard**, an organization dedicated to keeping America's runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. In addition to serving as spokesperson on behalf of NRS, he has recorded a series of radio public service announcements for distribution nationally to country radio.

Billboard

SINGLES

August 1, 2009

COUNTRY

JASON MICHAEL CARROLL

Hurry Home (4:02)

Producer: *Don Gehman*

Writer: *Z. Williams*

Publishers: *Year of the Dog Music, Words & Music (ASCAP)
Arista Nashville*

The second single from Jason Michael Carroll's second Arista album, "Growing Up Is Getting Old," is a poignant ballad written by Zane Williams about a divided family. The lyrics are sung from the perspective of a father who leaves an outgoing message on his answering machine, urging his runaway daughter to come home. It's a well-written tune, and although the subject matter is heartwrenching, Carroll's vocal performance isn't maudlin. Instead, he offers a subtle, thoughtful delivery that brings out each nuance of emotion in the lyric. At the risk of giving away the ending, it's a resolution likely to make the listener smile through tears. Carroll's voice has a worn, lived-in timbre that works especially well on this compelling ballad and should help draw further attention to his impressive new album.

—Deborah Evans Price



DISCLAIMER
Robert K. Oermann

July 10, 2009

Hurry Home - Single Review

Writer: Zane Williams; Producer: Don Gehman; Publisher: Year of the Dog/Big Yellow Dog, ASCAP; Arista (track)

—JMC eases into a ballad mode this time around. He couldn't have chosen a better song to do it with, because this is extremely well written. It is one of those perfectly constructed story songs that no one but a country-music person could write or sing. This is what we do best.



What They're Saying About *Growing Up Is Getting Old*

"Far from a sophomore slump, *Growing Up Is Getting Old* establishes Carroll as someone who certainly plans to be around for awhile."

-Brian Mansfield, *USA Today*

"Each tune is familiar, yet original and truly displays his inner-most thoughts. This record is **solid, bold**, and you can listen to it over again."

-Scott Sexton, *About.com*

"His second album seems **top-of-the-chart bound**... It is nicely balanced musically, grounded in life and living. It stands to remind us that growing up need not be the same as growing old."

-Philip Martin, *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*

"It only takes one listen to realize his chops are obvious. This boy has a voice."

-Ricardo Baca, *Denver Post*

"This is a concept album that **shines from start to finish** and, easily, it's one of the best albums that I've heard from anyone this year."

-Rich Kienzle, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"Steeped in responsibility, yet willing to test its limits, Carroll has drawn from his maturity to produce a **gem of a country album**."

-Jack Bernhardt, *Raleigh News & Observer*

"...his warm baritone voice works well amidst sensitive, accessible production and the album is a **more-than-worthy** sophomore release."

-*Napster*

"The up-tempo stuff is fiery with a solid beat, clever lyrics, and heavy dose of attitude. The smoother numbers are **awash with emotion** spread on by his mellow baritone."

-Ken Rosenbaum, *Toledo Blade*

"This will land on everyone's **top-five country CD** list come year's end."

-Cathalena E. Burch, *Arizona Daily Star*

"Jason **shines when things get serious** in the album's home stretch on more emotional numbers like 'We Threw It All Away.'"

-David Scarlett, *Country Weekly*

Billboard

Jason Michael Carroll: Positive Energy

By Ken Tucker May 09, 2009

While recording his second album, the rising country star Jason Michael Carroll was determined to expel any negative energy.

"We could have focused on the sophomore curse," Carroll says of his April 28 release "Growing Up Is Getting Old" (Arista Nashville). "But producer Don Gehman and I feel that if you focus on negative energy and you worry about things too much, then you reciprocate that negative energy. We did just what we did on the first record: put good songs on the album that meant something to me. We were also looking for that little something extra to show growth over the last three years."

Carroll's 2007 debut, "Waitin' in the Country," sold 395,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. It also spawned two top 10 hits, the tear-jerker "Alyssa Lies" and "Livin' Our Love Song." Another single, "I Can Sleep When I'm Dead," peaked at No. 21 on Hot Country Songs.

Carroll, who co-wrote all three of those singles, says he became a victim of one new-artist pitfall: He got too wrapped up in promotional appearances and touring. "I'm ashamed to say it," he says, "but I hadn't written anything new until the label asked, 'What have you got for the second album?'"

It was a wake-up call. "I made a vow to write and make it a priority," he adds. "I got carried away with everything else that was going on."

While he co-wrote three songs on the new album, he didn't write the first single, "Where I'm From," which is No. 16 on Hot Country Songs. "I've always said that if there's another song I believe in more, then that's the one I want as a single," Carroll says. "I didn't write 'Where,' but it's my life. I relate to every line." Co-written by Patrick Davis and Joe Leathers, the Gehman-

produced track tells the story of a man flying cross-country to collect his brother, who is dying of cancer, and bring him back home to their all-American small town. Chris Michaels, PD for KTTS Springfield, Mo., says the song hits home.

"I grew up in a small town in the South, so there was an instant personal connection," Michaels says. "The message is very simple and relatable. There was an immediate buzz and lots of positive feedback with this song. People want to be comforted during tough times."

On his first album, Carroll chronicled his desire to see his children in North Carolina after spending days on the road. His burgeoning success has made it tough to fulfill that commitment. "They are a big part of my life and I see them every chance I get," he says of the three children who live with his ex-wife and the son he has with his current spouse.

Of course, promoting a new album makes that contact tougher. "I've been out three straight weeks," he says of the days leading up to the album's launch. It's a fact of life that's also addressed on the new album. "Tears," written by Arlis Albritton and Ron Davis, speaks to the heartbreak of sporadic communication with a child who lives with an ex: "All I do is think of her/And wonder how I'm gonna make things work."

Carroll, who commutes between Nashville and North Carolina, says he'll be on the "corn dog and funnel cake tour" this summer, meaning fairs and festivals. He hopes to land a spot on a major tour in the fall.

"I want to be George Strait," he says. "For the next 30 years, if people are still coming to my shows to hear my music, that's all I can hope for. It'd be nice to have a No. 1 or sell a million records, but that's just a perk to the end goal."

People

COUNTRY
SPECIAL

MARCH 2010

Round Up



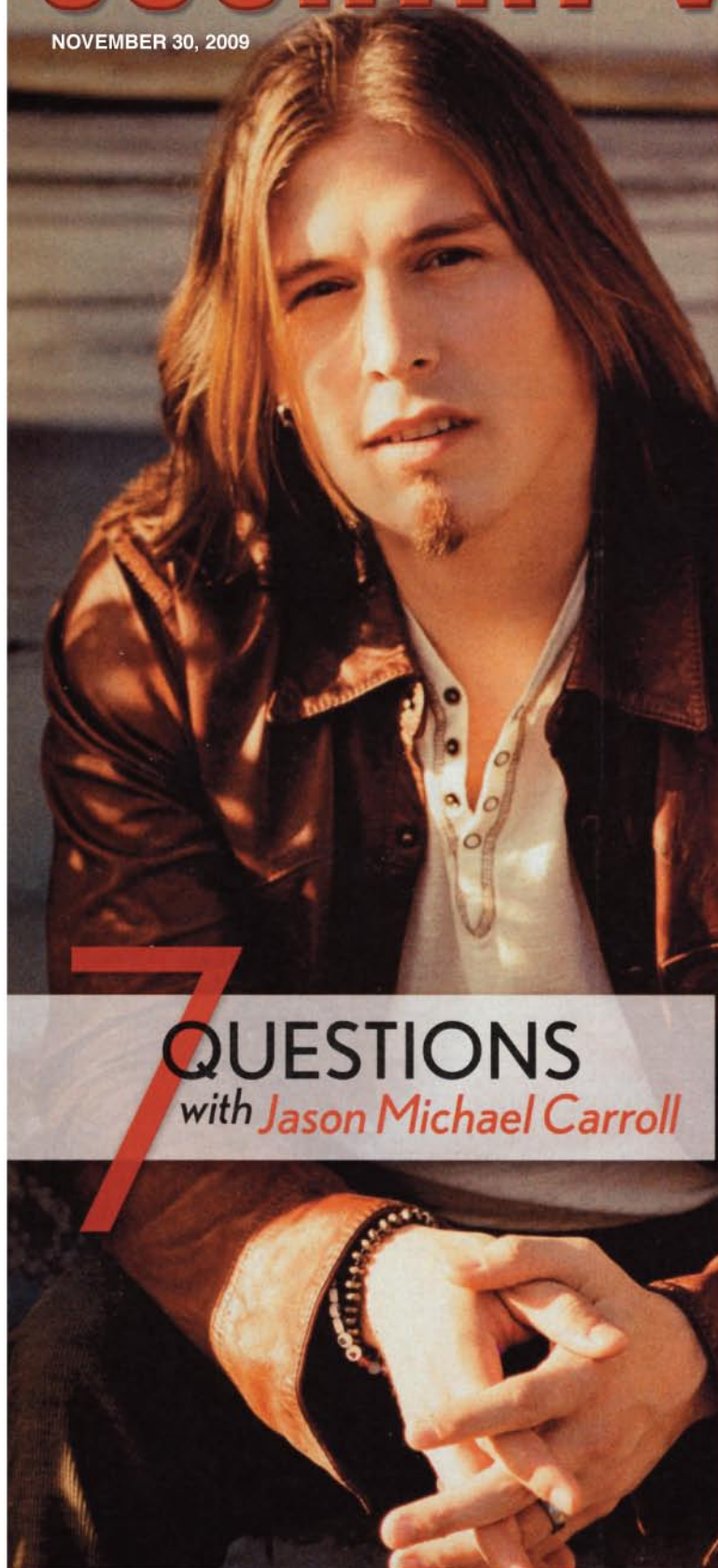
JASON MICHAEL CARROLL'S MOVIE STAR MAKEOVER

"I walked into a salon in Nashville, held up a picture of Bradley Cooper from *The Hangover* and said, 'Can you do this?'" Carroll says of his new look. So how does he like the result? "What's funny is when my hair was long, I would wash it and just let it fall. Now I'm using product and figuring when to put it in—not when it's dry, but not when it's wet either!"

"I woke up that morning and wanted to do something different," says Carroll.

COUNTRY WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 30, 2009



7 QUESTIONS with Jason Michael Carroll

Fans have shared countless stories with Jason Michael Carroll about the impact his songs "Alyssa Lies" and "Livin' Our Love Song" have had on them. The same thing is happening with his current single, "Hurry Home." CW sat down with the father of four to find out about "Hurry Home" and the lighter side of things in his life.

— MARIA DINOIA

1 What's the best advice you could give a new dad?

Work on your patience. There's nothing easy about being a dad and kids will test your limits every day. But there's nothing like it.

2 What's the last thing you and your kids made together?

Besides a mess? I don't know if this counts, but together we beat the Batman on PlayStation 3!

3 What do you think is the best invention?

The best and worst invention is cellphones. You are so accessible now that it's great, but it's too easy to get an e-mail or text message that says someone needs something last-minute!

4 What do you do to fall asleep when you're having trouble?

Usually if I'm not able to go to sleep, it means something is on my mind. So I get up and write down the idea—if it's a song [or] whatever it is—just start writing down something. Then I can sleep!

5 Cologne—yes or no?

Yes. I wear Reaction. And when women ask me that, I'll ask them if they're having one!

6 If you could "do over" a time in your life, what would it be?

I wish I listened more to my mom and dad when I was a kid!

7 Tell us about your involvement with the National Runaway Switchboard and how "Hurry Home" plays a role in that involvement.

I believe songwriting is somewhat spiritual and songs are literally more powerful than we are. "Hurry Home" found its way to me. My aunt ran away from an abusive husband and cut all ties with our family when I was only 2 years old. For 16 years, we prayed every night for her. Then she called one Christmas, out of the blue. "Hurry Home" took me back to that moment when I was watching my grandma talk to my aunt on the phone. We wanted to use the song to benefit those who could really use it and that's where the NRS came in. We put their banner at the end of our video for the song.

People **COUNTRY SPECIAL**

NOVEMBER 2009

Stars' Favorite **FAMILY PHOTOS**

From deep-sea adventure to bath-time fun, the stars open their albums to share treasured pix of them and their kids



The Jason Michael Carroll clan

"This was taken at the zoo. I love it because it's our whole family," says Carroll with, from left, Savanna, Stori, Gavin, wife Wendy and J.W. "Being divorced from the oldest three's mother, the times we all get together are extra special."

COUNTRY WEEKLY

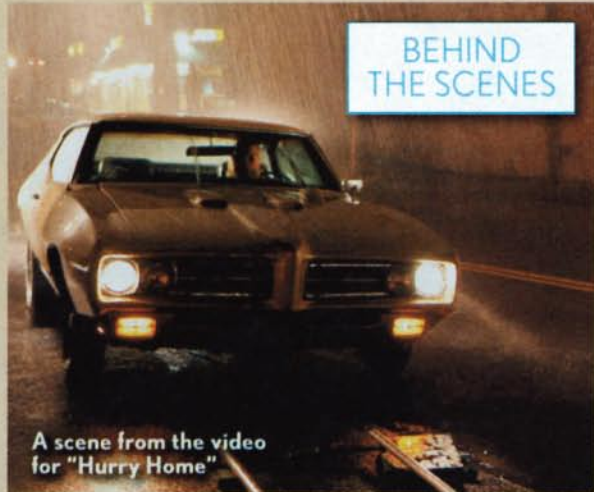
AUGUST 31, 2009

HEART & HOME

Jason Michael Carroll makes a powerful, poignant statement with his new single, "Hurry Home."

Jason Michael Carroll can easily relate to his new single, "Hurry Home," even though he didn't have a hand in writing it. "Hurry Home" tells the poignant story of a distraught father who is anxiously awaiting word from his daughter, who has run away from the family. The dad even records a hopeful musical greeting to his daughter on his answering machine: *It doesn't matter where you've been, you can still come home. And honey, if it's you, we've got a lot of making up to do.*

As the father of four children, Jason immediately understood the power and the passion behind the song's message. "It hit me pretty strong," he says. And evidently, the poignant tune strikes the same chord with fans. "The



BEHIND
THE SCENES

A scene from the video for "Hurry Home"

response I'd get the first time people heard it was amazing," Jason explains. "When they're listening, they're really listening. It hooks them. At the very end, there is such a ghostly feel about it and I get chills when I think about the first time I ever heard it."

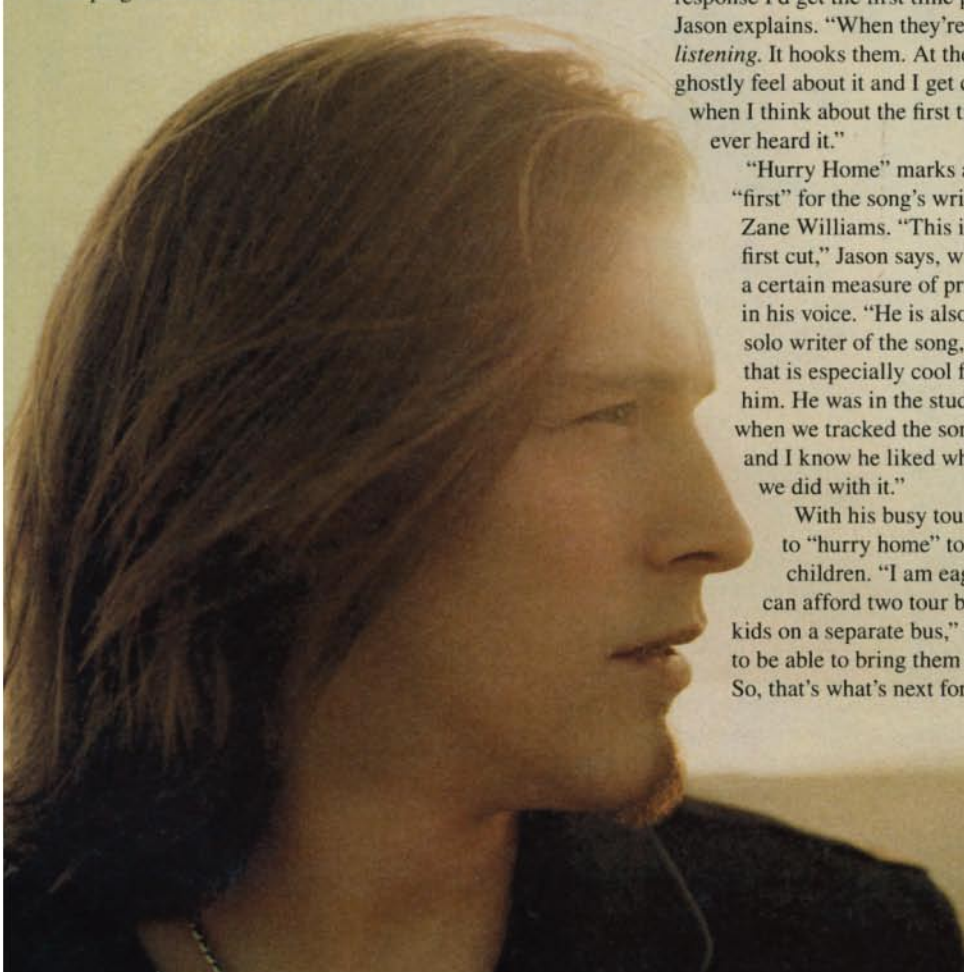
"Hurry Home" marks a "first" for the song's writer, Zane Williams. "This is his first cut," Jason says, with a certain measure of pride in his voice. "He is also the solo writer of the song, so that is especially cool for him. He was in the studio when we tracked the song and I know he liked what we did with it."

With his busy tour schedule, Jason can't wait to "hurry home" to his wife, Wendy, and the children. "I am eagerly awaiting the day that I can afford two tour buses, so that I can bring the kids on a separate bus," he says with a laugh. "I want to be able to bring them out on the road more often. So, that's what's next for me."



"It hit me pretty strong," says Jason of his new single.

—BOB PAXMAN



COUNTRY WEEKLY

MAY 4, 2009

STAYING YOUNG

Jason Michael Carroll may sing about getting older, but his kids make sure he still knows how to have fun.

STORY BY DAVID SCARLETT

Jason Michael Carroll may not be very far into his recording career, but he's already learned a valuable lesson—put the best songs you can find on your albums, no matter who wrote them.

He did that with his debut CD, *Waitin' in the Country*, which debuted at No. 1 in February 2007 and produced three hits, "Alyssa Lies," "Livin' Our Love Song" and "I Can Sleep When I'm Dead." While Jason did have a hand in writing five tunes on that album, he knew Nashville is a town with the best songwriters in the world, so why not take advantage of that?

And he's done it again with his sophomore CD, *Growing Up Is Getting Old*, out April 28 and including 3 songs with Jason's name on them, plus 7 written by other writers.

"If there's a song I believe in more than one I wrote, then that's the one I'm recording," he explains simply. "And I get to put my money where my mouth is. My first single from the new album is one I didn't write. But it's me."

The tune, "Where I'm From," is climbing through the Top 20 and was written by Jason's buddy, Patrick Davis. But Jason, the son of a Fundamental Independent Baptist preacher, says the lyrics about wooden white churches and a man's word meaning everything strike a familiar chord with him, too.

"I grew up on a tobacco farm, where a man's word means everything," recalls Jason of his North Carolina upbringing. "I saw deals go down in the backyard from

farmers just shaking hands." He recalls one particular Sunday morning when his former Marine and standout athlete dad relied on more than just the Good Book to get his young son's attention during a service.

"I had played video games with a friend of mine all night long and literally passed out at 6:30 or 7 o'clock in the morning. His parents got us up and took us to church. I sat in the back of the church with my friend and his grandparents.

"When Dad started delivering the first prayer of the church service, I laid my head on the pew in front of me. Dad prayed, and apparently I didn't come up after his prayer was over. So, with precision accuracy, he threw a hymnbook . . . from the front of the church to the back of the church. Now, we're talkin' about 30 pews. And it hit the pew right in front of me and I jumped up. I'd been touched!" Jason laughs.

Jason says dealing with his parents' divorce after 24 years of marriage—coming, as it did, while Jason was in boot camp for the Marine Corps—was the

toughest thing he's ever been through, even tougher than his own divorce from his first wife a few years ago.

"My divorce, we both knew it was time to get out," declares Jason. But dealing with seeing his young kids only occasionally or talking with them on the phone was something Jason could barely handle.

"Tears," on the new album, certainly captures that pain. It opens with Jason, in a real phone call to his



Jason hopes *Growing Up Is Getting Old* does as well as *Waitin' in the Country* did.

JASON MICHAEL CARROLL CONT.

daughter Savanna, saying, "Hey Vanna Bug, I miss you, baby." "I miss you, too," her tiny voice replies. If you've got a heart, then listening to "Tears"—with Savanna on the intro and Jason's young son Gavin Michael at the end saying, "Bye, Daddy, I love you, too"—will break it.

And if that tune doesn't get you, "Hurry Home," the CD's final track, will. It's the story of a father whose daughter has run away. The voicemail greeting he sings on his phone sums up what forgiveness is all about—*It doesn't matter what you've done, I still love you. It doesn't matter where you've been, you can still come home.*

It's all about family for Jason, with his dad (below), and dining with wife Wendy, their kids and (in front) Taylor, sister of Jason's friend Brittany Coppage, who died at 19 of cancer.



Looks like the kids are ganging up on Jason (right) as he goes into a serious self-preservation mode!



Like his dad, Jason was a proud Marine.

But "Tears," "Hurry Home" and "Where I'm From" are just three strong tunes on *Growing Up*. Another is the touching "Let Me Go," about a guy who's got nothing to offer the woman he loves and who tells her, as Jason once told his current wife, Wendy, "I'm no good for you." Fortunately for both of them, she saw things differently.

Lest we think the new CD is all about heartache and warm fuzzy feelings, let's set the record straight—it also rocks. Tunes like opening track "Happened on a Saturday Night" and "Barn Burner" are great pure-country tail kickers. And the title cut's final lines in the chorus sum up what a lot of guys can relate to: *I need to act my age, so I've been told. But, man, this growin' up is gettin' old.*

Fortunately, Jason's four kids—three with his first wife and one with Wendy—help keep him young.

"When we moved in, the back half of my yard was

nothin' but trees," he explains of his property in North Carolina. "And I said I was gonna make the back half of my yard a go-cart track for the kids. My dad made a huge go-cart track for me when I was a kid. But I never got a go-cart!" laughs Jason. "I rode my bike on it and I ran it, but I never had a go-cart. So, now I've built a go-cart track. Wendy and I have been pricin' 'em and we're gonna go get one.

"While we were building the track, my dad came over and operated the skid steer [aka Bobcat]. And he sideswiped a tree in my backyard. I heard something squeaking, and it was a baby squirrel that had fallen out of it's nest.

"We bottle fed it and discussed what to name it. One of the kids suggested, 'Lucky,' since it had survived the fall from the tree. And someone else said, 'How about "Nuts" since squirrels eat nuts.' Then J.W., my three-year old, said, 'We should call him "Lucky Nuts.'" I thought, 'That's all

I need, a member of the extended family named Lucky Nuts Carroll.'"

Jason laughs at both the name and the joy he gets spending time with his kids. Asked what would be the best thing to happen for

him in the next few months, he doesn't mention No. 1s or gold records.

"I'd love to afford a second bus, so I could bring my kids on the road more often," he proclaims quietly. After all, nothing keeps a man from growin' old like being around the kids he loves. **CW**

For more on Jason Michael Carroll, go to countryweekly.com



People weekly

Jason Michael Carroll: *Growing Up Is Getting Old*

On the title standout of his second CD, this country singer struggles with being "a wild horse that's tough to tame." But elsewhere he's a devoted father, partner and all-around family man.



Carroll's music won't be getting old anytime soon

Jason Michael Carroll *Growing Up Is Getting Old*

Carroll made his debut two years ago with *Alyssa Lies*, a devastating song about child abuse that took a fatal twist. The characters on the thirty-year-old country singer's second album meet happier fates, though some find that happiness rationed to every other weekend and a phone call each night promptly at 8 o'clock. Other reluctantly face maturity - the high school quarterback who knocks up his girlfriend, the Southerner who flies to the West Coast to bring home his cancer-stricken brother - and Carroll sings about them like someone who knows their lives, but knows how to blow off a little steam, too. Carroll balances the tears of estranged fathers with barnburners and barroom fights. The strength of families provides him with his most powerful moments, especially on songs like the waltz *That's All I Know*, written by Paul Overstreet and Casey Beathard. Far from a sophomore slump, *Growing Up Is Getting Old* establishes Carroll as someone who certainly plans to be around for awhile. If getting big doesn't mean growing up too much, he just might become a real country star after all.



(2 million hits monthly)

***Growing Up Is Getting Old* Bottom Line:**

Jason Michael Carroll has been one of the fastest rising stars in country music in a long time. Now, with the release of his sophomore album *Growing Up Is Getting Old*, fans can hear the sounds that they fell in love with originally, as well as new areas in which he has grown. Each tune is familiar, yet original and truly displays his inner most thoughts. This record is solid, bold, and is something that you can listen to over and over again.

***Growing Up Is Getting Old* - The Songs**

When listening to Jason Michael Carroll, fans have come to expect the different sounds that have made him the artist that he is today. It is no different with this record. You will hear everything from love to partying and anything in between.

The album starts off with an awesome tune called "Happened On A Saturday Night (Suzie Q)." It is fast-paced and is about a "love gone wrong" situation and how everyone is affected by how the other one acts.

The first single on this record is an amazing song that has really made an impact on country music lovers. It is "Where I'm From." Nothing beats its message or its sound. It is about a common man who is flying to pick up his brother who is dying. While on the plane, he gets bumped up to first class and starts talking to the man in the "Armani suit" next to him. He describes where he is from and how he enjoys the simple things in life. You will have to listen to the rest of the song to find out how it ends, but it is worth it.

"That's All I Know" is one of the best songs that Jason Michael has ever recorded and "We Threw It All Away" is right there with it.

Wrapping this record up is a touching track called "Hurry Home." If you are a parent, you will be able to relate to the fears of where your children are at different points in their lives.

Growing Up Is Getting Old has a solid sound and is perfect for any country music lover.



Growing Up is Getting Old - Jason Michael Carroll

by Jenny Delamotte

By the time Jason Michael Carroll's sophomore effort was released, the first single 'Where I'm From' had already spent an impressive 19 weeks on the charts. Not surprising for Billboard Magazine's 'Top New Country Artist' winner from 2007.

The second album, titled 'Growing Up is Getting Old', proves Carroll is long past growing pains and well on his way to being an established artist. The title track is a fun and reflective song, reminiscent of a Garth Brooks' 'Much to Young to Feel This Damn Old' for this generation. Carroll's deep voice hits the lows easily and melodically, and can make you stomp your feet or cry in your beer. 'Tears', a divorce story, begins with one of his children's voices, and you know you are in for a tearjerker.

Carroll surrounded himself with a highly pedigreed team for this album. Don Gehmen (Hootie and the Blowfish), John Mellencamp and Paul Overstreet all had a hand in orchestrating the project, but JMC remains true to himself and doesn't rely on rehashing other's sounds. The CD is unabashedly country, with lush arrangements on tracks such as 'That's all I know'. The fiddle is haunting without overpowering the melody.

I would highly recommend this CD to any country fan. It's a standout in a somewhat overcrowded market, and well worth the attention it is sure to garner. My must listen track: 'We Threw It All Away'.



Jason Michael Carroll Views New Album as "Make or Break"

Growing Up Is Getting Old a Powerful Successor to First CD

April 29, 2009; Written by Edward Morris

Jason Michael Carroll's second album, *Growing Up Is Getting Old*, came out this week, and he feels pretty confident about its sales prospects. But he knows the stakes are high.

"As much as I hate reality shows, this is kind of the reality show of the music business," he says with a chuckle. "If this record does well, I get to stick around. If not, I get voted off the island. This is a make-or-break album -- although I don't really have a Plan B."

So far, Plan A seems to be working. "Where I'm From," the first single from the album, is in the Top 20 and still rising. Moreover, Carroll made a lot of radio programmers sit up and take notice when he previewed songs from the project during the recent Country Radio Seminar.

Carroll's first album, *Waitin' in the Country*, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard country charts and it yielded two Top 10 hits -- "Alyssa Lies" and "Livin' Our Love Song."

But the album has sold only a modest 395,000 copies since it emerged two years ago, according to Nielsen SoundScan, the Co. that tracks such data.

"I called Don Gehman, my producer, the other day," Carroll continues. "I said, 'Don, I really have a good feeling about everything we've done on this record. I think it's going to be a big record for both of us.'"

"He said he had the same feeling -- which made me feel good because he's done records with Hootie & the Blowfish, John Mellencamp, Tracy Chapman, R.E.M. and all those folks."

There's no doubt the new album has plenty of musical muscle, whether it's the full-bodied romp of "Barn Burner," the chest-thumping pride of "Where I'm From" or the desolate cry of "Tears."

Carroll is a powerful vocalist who can summon up just about any shade of emotion the lyrics call for. He co-wrote three of the project's 10 songs and turned for the rest to such other A-list writers as Tom Shapiro, Keith Anderson and Patrick

Davis.

"[Don and I] didn't put a lot of thought into the 'sophomore curse' thing," Carroll says. "We honestly felt that if we thought negative thoughts, it would have brought [negativity] to it. We focused on making a record that would mean something to us." Although the two men knew the kind of album they wanted to create, they had only a few songs in hand when they began recording.

In fact, Carroll wrote all his songs after the recording started. "The album definitely grew organically," he says. "We put pieces together. I believed in 'Where I'm From' so much after our first session in the studio, back in April of last year, that when we went out on tour with Carrie Underwood in June, I included it in my set then.

"One of my main goals -- something that's very important to me -- is keeping the music so that a fan can listen to one song on this record and walk away with a little piece of an idea of who I am."

Carroll says that the album is "almost biographical," adding, "For every song on there, I can tell you how I relate to it. That was a big deal to me. A lot of fans may or may not get the chance to ever meet me or come see me at shows. So for those fans, I want them to be able to pick up a CD and get just as much about getting to know me as if they were able to come to a show."

One song on the new album, "We Threw It All Away," Carroll regards as a thematic sequel to "Livin' Our Love Song." He should know. He co-wrote both. And both center on his real-life relationship with his wife, Wendy.

"'Livin' Our Love Song' came from the fact that Wendy and I dated in high school for a while," he explains. "Her parents found out and didn't like it. They sent her away to college. Several years went by, and Wendy just happened to come into a nightclub where I was playing in my local cover band back home [in North Carolina].

That was seven years later, and we started talking like we'd never missed a

day. People said it would never work out, but look at us now: That's 'Livin' Our Love Song.'

"Well, you fast forward a few years, and 'We Threw It All Away' kind of takes you to that spot where Wendy had gone through college, become an X-ray tech, worked at a great hospital and her parents were very proud of her. I -- after all those years of being in a band and trying to do what I could -- had finally gotten my record deal.

"I remember a couple of months later we found out that Wendy was pregnant. And I'll never forget -- her mom and my mom, her dad and my dad were all telling us the same thing: 'You're throwing everything away.' Although it wasn't the exact way we would have planned it, Wendy and I never felt like that. So that's where that song came from."

A highlight for Carroll in the recording process was getting to write with prize-winning composers Casey Beathard and Paul Overstreet. Their joint contribution to the album is a tune called "That's All I Know."

"I remember walking into the studio that day," Carroll says, "and I really felt we all knew we were going to write something big. The feeling in the room was there. But we were kicking out ideas, and nothing seemed to be as big as we wanted to write it.

"After about five minutes, I looked down at my sheet of paper, and I've got this list of things we've come up with. I said, 'Guys, what if we take this list of things we've been mentioning? They don't really mean a whole lot on their own, but if you put them together, they mean everything.' That's the way we wrote 'That's All I Know.'"

To date, Carroll has opened shows for Arista Records label mates Carrie Underwood, Brooks & Dunn and Alan Jackson. If all goes as planned, he'll hit the road this fall with another superstar act. Between such major swings, he'll continue to work the fairs and festivals circuit, which he's cheerfully dubbed his Corn Dog & Funnel Cake tour.



Mobile Press Register

(circ: 150,000)

Jason Michael Carroll set to play IP Casino

By Lawrence F. Specker
November 20, 2009

Jason Michael Carroll may be growing up, but he isn't all grown up just yet, he says. Seems like it wasn't all that long ago that rising country star was giving us the chest-thumping anthem of "I Can Sleep When I'm Dead." Now he's giving us a line about how "Growing Up Is Getting Old."

And in fact, it was summer 2008 when Carroll opened for Carrie Underwood at the Mobile Civic Center. He was riding high on his first album, "Waitin' in the Country" which produced several hits, including "I Can Sleep When I'm Dead" and "Alyssa Lies."

On Saturday he returns to the area for an appearance at IP Casino, Resort & Spa in Biloxi. Tickets for the 8 p.m. show, which also features Gloriana, range from \$25 to \$40 plus service fees and are available through Ticketmaster.

Carroll has a new album under his belt, "Growing Up is Getting Old," released in April. If the title track sounds like a complete U-turn from the "I Can Sleep" days, well, Carroll cautions listeners not to make too much of it.

"Here's the thing," he said. "When we first released the first record, the band and I, we really kind of lived up 'I Can Sleep When I'm Dead.' It got to the point where, if there was a party we were invited to, we wouldn't turn down an invitation. If that meant we got two hours' sleep before the next morning and we had interviews and things like that to do, then, so be it. However, it really started catching up to us. "By the time we were getting ready to do the second record, I noticed that we still got invited to parties, we'd still go to parties, but we wouldn't party as hard. Or maybe we would hang around for an hour or so ... We still party, but that growing up, that dang responsibility kicks in.

That's when growing up truly is getting old, because you'd love to hang out, you'd love to still do it, but you have to be responsible.

"I'm also running a business," Carroll said. "It's something I had to learn. This is my future. If I want to be taken seriously, then I need to take it seriously."

Fortunately for fans, giving people a good time is still a big part of the job. With four Top 20 country singles under his belt and another ("Hurry Home") knocking on the door, Carroll said he feels like he's hitting his stride.

"It's really starting to catch on," he said. "It feels like we're right there on that edge, about to really bust loose. It's exciting." "We try to always keep people entertained. That's my main goal. That's my focus," he said. "This world's crazy right now. For us to be able to take people to a place where they can cut loose and relax for an hour, two hours, whatever we play, it's a lot of responsibility on our part, but it's something we're definitely welcoming and up for the challenge for."

It seems like we're definitely developing a fan base," he said. "Everywhere we seem to be playing, we're seeing more and more folks coming out. Not just that, but the folks that are there, we're seeing more and more folks singing along to our songs." "They'll scream for songs that I've never even released on a record yet," he said. "They know the song and they want to hear me sing it live, because they've seen YouTube clips of me doing it or something like that. It's really cool that people are responding that well and that way to our music."

"It's a complement," he said. "That's another big step. That shows they're really committed to what I'm doing."

For more information on Carroll's music visit www.jasonmichaelcarroll.com.

For more on IP's entertainment lineup, visit www.ipbiloxi.com.



(circ: 300,000)

Carroll grows up on a wonderfully entertaining sophomore album.

By Cathalena E. Burch

Carroll previewed several cuts from his just-released sophomore album, "Growing Up Is Getting Old" (Arista Nashville), at last month's Country Thunder USA festival in Florence. From the crowd's reaction then and the speed that his first single from that album, "Where I'm From," is shooting up the charts — it's No. 15 this week — 2009 could be his breakthrough year.

- **What to love:** The Houston native is a wonderful songwriter who crafts richly detailed everyday tales set to the backdrop of fiddle and acoustic guitar. There are strong Southern-rock inclinations along the way, mixed in with neo-traditional sensibilities that soar. He employs enough fiddle and steel guitar to remind you that he has not forgotten that his music belongs squarely in the country bin.
- **First impressions:** There's not a bad song on this album, from the first single, "Where I'm From," to the honky-tonk sizzler "Barn Burner" to the toe-tapping love-triangle tale that "Happened on a Saturday Night (Suzie Q)."
- **Sing me a love song:** "Let Me Go" is a gem with a wonderful punch line of perseverance when the girl sings "Let me go / Take me with you, baby / It's so cold outside your arms." Carroll also turns on the waterworks with the divorced-father ballad to a daughter, "Tears," and moans about lost love in a place of the heart where "Sorry Don't Matter" before growing reflective with a take-that-you-doubters tone in the midtempo "We Threw It All Away."
- **Worth the price of the whole album:** Tie between the roller-coaster party anthem "Barn Burner" and the touching tale of "Where I'm From." They exemplify what this album is — a well-crafted package that balances tempos and moods. This will land on everyone's top-five country CD list come year's end.

Carroll 'Growing Up'

By Richard Eldredge

Sure, Raleigh, N.C. country star Jason Michael Carroll is opening for star Carrie Underwood in stadiums and performing live concerts on "Good Morning America" these days.

Lucky for us, he's still got a soft spot for Cowboys in Kennesaw. The 29-year-old bearer of that crazy beer-soaked baritone returns to the Kennesaw club tonight at 10:30 to introduce local fans to the songs from his excellent sophomore album, "Growing Up is Getting Old."

Prior to our interview on Thursday, Buzz got an advance listen to the CD, and fans will be pleased to know that the Walmart shopping, young father of four hasn't gone all Nashville on us.

In fact, the Carroll co-penned opening track, "Happened on a Saturday Night (Suzie Q)" could have been written at a Cowboys gig.

"I've seen a lot of drama playing in honky tonks the past 13 years!" Carroll told us laughing. "Oh man, people get into some things!

That song is really about all I've seen over the years. I was looking for something in your face and high energy to open the album. That just seemed to fit."

The album's tear-stained first single, "Where I'm From," wasn't written by Carroll but he says he's lived the song. "I wanted to play it live and record it from the moment I heard it," Carroll recalls. "I've sat on that wooden pew in my Baptist preacher daddy's church, and I grew up on a tobacco farm and watched those deals go down out in the field. I knew what that song was about."

While he gets recognized now a lot more when he does the family shopping at the Walmart, his family takes it in stride.

Says Carroll: "I leave Wendy [Phillips] and the kids in the truck and tell them, 'I only need a few things. I'll be right back.' If I'm not back in 10 minutes now, one of the kids will pipe up and say, 'Daddy is out there signing autographs again!' But they understand about it."

Heartbreaker at the Hoedown

By: Greg Crawford

For a guy who's only 31, Jason Michael Carroll has racked up some head-scratching numbers: four children, two marriages, 3 1/2 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, two CDs and four hit singles on a major Nashville label. It makes you wonder whether there was any time left during his roaring 20s for sleeping -- or even brushing his teeth.

"I think I've always been the kind of guy who wants what I want when I want it," says Carroll, who's appearing today for the third year in a row at Detroit's Downtown Hoedown. "It might not always be planned out very well, but you can't plan for life."

The messiness of life is something that comes up a lot on Carroll's just-released album, "Growing Up Is Getting Old," which finds the North Carolina minister's son singing about much of what he has lived: hell-raising, fatherhood, to his fading adolescence and forgiveness. More poignant is first single "Where I'm From," which finds him assuming the role of a man traveling by plane to bring a cancer-stricken brother home to die in his small hometown.

The tune, No. 15 on the current Billboard country chart, isn't the first Carroll song to bring a lump to listeners' throats. He came to the attention of country fans two years ago with the "Alyssa Lies," which deals with child abuse and ends with a girl's death.

The artist says writing "Alyssa," his biggest hit to date, was a painful process that gave him severe headaches.

"I kind of pride myself on being a dark writer," he says. "Some things I've written will never be heard on radio. Songwriting is somewhat spiritual. Songs are out there waiting to be written. They decide on their own how they get here and how they get delivered."

Carroll's impressive vocal range, which reaches from a deep baritone to a high tenor, makes him stand out from the current Nashville pack. For a lesson in just how much, compare the low notes he growls on "I Can Sleep When I'm Dead" with the sweet heights he reaches on "Let It Rain," both from his first album, 2007's "Waitin' in the Country."

Curiously, the singer plays down his gift.

"Instead of trying to showcase my voice and make the record just about me, we really want to make good songs," he says. "We want to do songs that will keep us around a long time."