

News Release

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John Mayer Releases Paradise Valley, Surprising Critics and Fans

Blacksburg, Va., September 19, 2013—John Mayer has released his sixth studio album, *Paradise Valley*, just a year after releasing *Born and Raised*.

The album hit stands Aug. 16, with songs such as “Paper Doll” becoming an instant hit with Mayer fans. The song appears to play off of the popular song “22,” written by Mayer’s ex-girlfriend, Taylor Swift, as his song features the line “you’re like 22 girls in one.”

“I admire John Mayer’s ability to have such personal lyrics, while still connecting strongly with his audience,” said Mayer fan Jessica Roberts. “This album really encompasses that ability, while still displaying Mayer’s new, lighthearted lifestyle.”

Paradise Valley incorporates some of the same folk-rock elements as *Born and Raised*, but brings to the table a more laidback tone—reflecting Mayer’s peaceful state of mind after years of negative media attention. In fact, the name of the album is a direct reference to Mayer’s newly acquired Montana retreat.

In a recent interview with the *Chicago Tribune*, Mayer reflected on his rocky relationship history and how *Paradise Valley* reflects his new lifestyle.

“I’m very easygoing at this point in my life. I know what I have. I know who’s in my life, my friends, my family, my loved ones,” Mayer said. “To get onstage three years after my last show and sell it out without any kind of pop culture steam behind me [is amazing].”

Almost all of the album’s songs explore Mayer’s life, displaying his usual introspective lyrics. Fans can even get a look into Mayer’s current love life with the song “Who You Love,” featuring musical star and current girlfriend Katy Perry.

Frank Ocean also spotlights on the album with his version of “Wildfire,” a soulful alternative to Mayer’s mellow summer tune. “Wildfire” and several other songs on the album feature intricate guitar techniques that led critics, and Mayer himself, to note Grateful Dead as an influence.

“I’m transitioning from a guy who just five years ago had a hit on the radio to a guy who wants to have the Grateful Dead and Pearl Jam and Phish be a model for how to tour and how to put records out,” Mayer said. “It’s a bit of a transitional moment.”

Mayer’s cover of J.J. Cale’s “Call Me the Breeze” seems to say it all about the artist’s current mental state: Mayer keeps “blowin’ down the road,” without “hidin’ from nobody.”

Besides the artist's successful leap over years of negative attention, he's also cleared another hurdle: two throat surgeries in the last two years.

However, the time spent away may not have been such a bad thing for Mayer; with two albums out in 15 months and fully healed vocal cords, the artist has been busy on his Born and Raised world tour.

The six-month tour makes over 70 stops in eight different countries. A full list of tour dates can be found at johnmayer.com/tour.

Paradise Valley and Mayer's previous studio albums are available for download on johnmayer.com and iTunes.