

## Mitchell Rose *Love To Me* (Clique Records)



The road to Mitchell Rose's career as a singer/songwriter/piano player was cultivated long before he can even remember, beginning as a prodigy actor in a slew of musicals throughout Chicagoland. Throughout junior high and high school, his repertoire's included portrayals of the Boy Scrooge and Peter Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol" at the prestigious Goodman Theatre, alongside prominent appearances in Marriott Lincolnshire's "Oliver," both the Bailiwick Repertory's and Theatre at the Center's "The Christmas Schooner" and Emerald City Theatre's "High School Musical."

"In working so much in the theatre world, I saw so many great actors and singers, which really helped me learn the art of performance," Rose recalls, also citing a childhood that included a variety of commercials and even an independent film under the Columbia College cinematography department. "But I had taken classical piano lessons since I was 8-years-old, often times adding my own improvisation to an already established piece. When I turned 14, it got to a point when I couldn't concentrate on the music I was supposed to be practicing anymore because I was always thinking about writing on my own. During one practice, I wrote my very first song 'We're Through,' and once I put the chords and lyrics on paper, I knew I wanted to keep exploring musical composition."

Fast forward through today, and Rose just finished recording his national debut disc *Love To Me* under the production of BMI Award winning singer/songwriting Kevin Chalfant (also front man for Interscope recording act The Storm that also featured three Journey members) and his frequent collaborator Alby Odum. The two met by happenstance when Chalfant was judging the Teen Idol Competition in central Illinois (which Rose won) and part of his prize was demo time at the veteran's studio.

"What started out as a demo turned into a full album and it was an absolute blast to make," shares the now 18-year-old piano pop star in the making. "The sessions are amongst my fondest creative memories up until now and we got along really well. It all felt like just the perfect collaboration."

The results find their way onto the ten track collection *Love To Me* (on Chalfant's Clique Records), a batch of melodic pop tunes about finding, losing and rediscovering love from the perspective of a burgeoning songwriter. With an audience spanning his peers and well beyond given Rose's prolific talents and the pristine production, the project is sure to appeal to fans as diverse as piano pounders like Elton John and Coldplay, to rockers like U2 and Kings of Leon, and even rhythmic hints of Justin Timberlake.

"I would say these songs fall under pop or rock, but I do have a little bit of R&B influence in them having always been a fan of Motown too," adds Rose. "'I Can Climb Mountains' is one where I added some funk and soul to the pop vibe and it shows the silly and sarcastic side of me, while 'I Found It' is one of those songs I had in my head at 2:30 a.m. that I couldn't shake, so I got up and wrote it about the hopeful side of falling in love. But 'We're Through' also means a lot to me since it's the first full song I wrote. The funny thing is I wrote it about ending a relationship, but it was long before my first girlfriend!"

Between the completed CD and additional performances under his belt as diverse as the Illinois State Fair, the Miss Illinois Teen Pageant and even a coveted opening slot for Chalfant, Rose is clearly settling into his own artistic skin and forging an unmistakable stamp, sure to make a mark on the next generation of troubadours.

"I hope to be successful, and I don't say that in a cocky way, but with a sense of confidence because that's what you need to survive in this business," he sums up. "But my main goal is for people to listen to it and enjoy it. I hope people relate to what I have to say, especially if they're feeling like they can't find love or are just down on themselves, and hopefully these songs will pick them up and remind them not to worry."

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