

A photograph of a person playing a piano in a room with large windows overlooking a building. The piano is a dark grey Yamaha model, and a hand is visible on the keys. The windows are large and multi-paned, showing a blurred view of a building outside. The overall mood is calm and artistic.

jake miller

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TWO YEARS AGO, POP/R&B/RAP singer-songwriter Jake Miller was in the midst of a new, nerve wracking chapter in his career. That summer, he announced his departure from Warner Bros. Records, which he originally signed with in November 2013 at the age of 20.

Due to the dwindling creative freedom enjoyed since the making of his debut *Us Against Them*, which features the hit single "Collide," Jake decided to embark on the "independent" path. He set up a studio in his bedroom, taught himself how to produce, and released not one, but two full-length albums – *2:00am in LA* in June 2017 and *Silver Lining* in March 2018.

"That was when I was all on my own. I was going through a lot of changes and a lot of labels and managers, and I decided to take it all into my own hands and just learn how to do it all by myself," Jake says. "So, for the past two years, I've been learning how to write and produce all of my own music in my bedroom."

Throughout those years, Jake experienced drastic growth as both a person and an artist. He learned how to fight for his dreams, even when things seem bleak, and was able to recognize just how strong he truly is. But those days of fending for himself are finally over.

In July 2018, Jake took a major leap forward by signing with RED MUSIC, a label division of Sony Music, and joining the ranks of artists like Russell Dickerson, New Year's Day and lovelytheband. Under this new representation, Jake released on

March 29 the EP *Based On A True Story*, which is accompanied by the Wait For You Tour, which is underway.

According to the 26-year-old Weston, Florida native, getting picked up by RED MUSIC has helped him take his artistry to the next level and put out his best music yet. Though he will forever take pride in the music created under Warner, including the EPs *Dazed and Confused*, *Rumors*, and *Overnight*, there's something unexplainably special, in Jake's opinion, about the fresh material.

"I've kind of just taken it to the next notch in terms of production and melodies and lyrics. I think all six songs on the EP are my six proudest songs that I've ever made. They're all very different. Some are very upbeat, some are very slow. I tried different things. I have a choir singing on one of the songs. I have a lot of live instruments, a live guitar, a live saxophone," Jake says. "I've just been trying to do what I haven't done before in the past, and I'm trying to push myself to get better."

One such example is "What If You Fell In Love," the last track on *Based On A True Story* that Jake was especially excited for the world to hear after an incredible recording session.

"It's got an amazing, beautiful outro with a choir. The song is really just about thinking you had somebody in your back pocket your whole life, and then wondering, 'What happens if they fall in love and move on?' And it's too late to call them up and rekindle that flame because

they have already moved on," Jake says. "So that's what that song is about. It's really personal and really emotional, probably one of the saddest songs I've ever written."

Ahead of the release of *Based On A True Story*, Jake teased his fan base, widely known as the "Millertary," with a slew of ear worm-inducing singles – "Nikes" and "Wait For You". He also dropped a music video for the latter, which boasts more than 167,000 views on YouTube and hundreds of positive comments, mostly all praising Jake for his art (and looks).

So far, listeners are latching onto the new material with as much – or more – unbridled passion as they did in 2014 for "First Flight Home." Both this song, which has yielded 7 million views on YouTube, and "Wait For You" climbed to Billboard's Mainstream Top 40.

"It's been amazing. I think the feedback I've gotten from 'Wait For You' has been some of the best feedback I've ever gotten on my music before," Jake says. "I've gotten so many new people and new fans coming out and telling me they just discovered my music because of 'Wait For You' and hearing it on the radio and stuff like that. The reaction of 'Wait For You' and 'Nikes' has been exactly what I hoped for it to be."

Still, fans' current support shouldn't come as a surprise when taking into consideration their constant backing of Jake. Even during his independent journey, which unfortunately coincided with the breakup of his longtime girlfriend, the "Mil-

lertary” was by its idol’s side. As Jake spent countless late-night hours in his bedroom studio, it was this sense of unwavering love from his faithful fan base, which includes more than 1 million Instagram followers, 700,000 Twitter followers, and 600,000 YouTube subscribers, that gave him the strength to keep going.

It’s also what prompted him to dig deep into his inner scrap-piness, finding ways to continue booking gigs and visiting numerous cities without the backing of a label. In 2017, Jake performed for fans across the country in the Back To The Start Tour. The stretch of shows saw impressive turnouts, venues chock-full of attendees singing every lyric back to Jake, and diehards littering the streets, hoping for a glimpse of their idol getting on or off his tour bus. It was just like old times, and Jake couldn’t have been happier.

“That felt amazing. I think they’re even more excited these days just knowing that I have a label behind me that is giving me what I deserve and treating me like a priority, which is what every artist wants, and what every fan base wants for their artist,” he says.

Now, fans can once again breathe the same air as Jake by attending a date on the cross-country Wait For You Tour, which commenced on April 11 in Las Vegas and will conclude on May 17 in Los Angeles. For Jake, it’s a thrill to finally be back on the road, a place he feels most comfortable and confident.

“I’m so excited for tour. I thrive when I’m on tour, on a tour bus with some of my best friends for a month, and getting to see the fans. Just being face-to-face with the people who support me every day, that’s important to me,” he says. “And I can’t wait to play the new music. It’s going to be an amazing time.”

The opening act for the tour is label mate Logan Henderson, whose former Nickelodeon group Big Time Rush collaborated with Jake on the 2013 single “Lost In Love,” which is featured on the band’s album *24/7*.

“I didn’t even know him then, that was all over email,” Jake says of the track. “But we’ve become close friends.”

Jake encourages new and old fans alike to come out to one of the concerts. Even if someone isn’t familiar with his pre-*Based On A True Story* work, he promises they won’t feel out of place, bored or disappointed.

“My shows are very energetic, very fun. It’s just an amazing atmosphere and an amazing time, whether you’re 10-years-old or 60-years-old. You can come to one of my shows, stand in the crowd, and appreciate it,” he says. “My music is, I think, universal. People can relate to it. I’m talking about real life things in my songs. Some of them are about anti-bullying, some are about suicide awareness, some are just about growing up.”

These include “A Million Lives”, a song from 2013 that highlights Jake’s mission to inspire fans who may be going through a rough patch; “Steven”, which chronicles the chilling tale

of a boy who’s beaten, bullied and neglected, and is ultimately contemplating suicide to escape it all; and “Number One Rule”, another track from *Us Against Them* that tells people to never settle for less, and to keep climbing until they’re where they want to be in life.

“I think my songs make for a good show and a really good vibe in the venue,” he says.

“Hopefully, everyone leaves my shows feeling great and escapes the world for a few hours to enjoy good music.”

Of course, while a portion of the set list is dedicated to Jake’s latest work, favorites such as “Collide” and “First Flight Home” aren’t, and will never be, forgotten.

“I always play some of the OG songs for the OG fans,” he says.

As Jake quickly adapts to the swing of tour life and revels in the early success of *Based On A True Story*, he’s already looking ahead at what’s next for 2019. As any member of the “Millertary” knows, Jake isn’t one to ever sit back and relax. In good times and in bad, he’s resilient and ever-dedicated to his craft, and will never stop the daily grind until he’s No. 1.

“We’re going to be on the road a lot promoting and doing a lot of shows, radio shows, and hopefully another tour toward the back end of the year,” he says. “But I’m just going to continue to make music. And we’re going to put a lot of music out, a lot of remixes, a lot of DJ collaborations in the works, a lot of music videos. It’s going to get really busy. It’s going to be awesome.”

