

Nathan Johnson to rock the Delaware beaches

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Written by
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For the Beachcomber

REHOBOTH BEACH -- Singer/songwriter Nathan Johnson, a poised and confident artist with a knack for playing the guitar, is ready to rock the Delaware beaches.

"Johnson has been an amazingly talented addition to our music lineup," said Mark Harrison, general manager at Nage, a Rehoboth Beach restaurant that will soon host the up-and-coming musician. "He plays a great mix of popular covers and his own creations; he is also pleasantly interactive with our guests."

New to the area but no stranger at his craft, Johnson has been performing professionally for 20 years -- first as a piano player and later on the guitar.

"I like the warmth and intimacy of the acoustic guitar, but also the rawness when you beat the crap out of it," he said. "I play electric guitar in the studio, occasionally live, and love all the crazy energy of it."

The Texas native's newest album, "Dames, Dreams and Other Dreary Things," is comprised of 12 tracks of laid-back rock songs and is available on iTunes or CD Baby.

Of all Johnson's songs, Track 7, entitled "Don't Need To Hear," has been receiving the most thumbs-up so far on Pandora Radio.

From his first album to the fourth, fans certainly won't find anything stingy with the final piece.

"My songwriting starts with one simple line or thought that I find interesting or meaningful, and everything grows out of that," he said. "With this album, I tried to choose songs that ring true with me and that are fun to listen to, even if the message is a bit, well, dreary."

In addition to fans anticipating his new music, the cover art of the album has piqued some curiosity.

"It's something I routinely get asked about," said Johnson. "It is not a photo of my girlfriend; it's a stock photo of a model diving underwater."

With the added cloud element giving the feeling of being underwater and in the sky, Johnson hopes it ends up being symbolic of the CD title.

Audiences this weekend will get a sneak peak of the album. Some of the songs that work well live are "The Weatherman" and "Keep It Real."

"I'm a little proud of the fact that I'm different," he said, "Not everyone gets what I do. It's caused some doors to be shut, but I think I gain more in the long run."

IF YOU GO NATHAN JOHNSON

Where: Nage, Route 1, Rehoboth Beach

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Cost: Free

Where: The Lighthouse, Route 1, Dewey Beach

When: 1 p.m. Saturday

Cost: Free

Web: www.nathanjohnson.com