

JJ SHIPLETT

Calling JJ Shiplett a force of nature might be considered a hyperbole to those who haven't heard the singer perform live, but for anyone that has, it fits the bill just right. Few artists can capture a person's attention by way of song as effortlessly and honestly the way JJ does.

Having a rare ability to connect with audiences using his affecting and vast vocal range, the singer first made his mark on the national music scene in 2017 with his CCMA Awards-nominated debut album, 'Something to Believe In'. Now, the roots singer is back with a sophomore record, 'Fingers Crossed', an album which further showcases his ability to captivate through contemplative songwriting.

The winds of change have arrived along with award-winning performer, JJ Shiplett's, new album. Returning are Shiplett's signature raspy sound and haunting melodies, but what's new is a sense of freedom and independence heard both in JJ's lyrics and composition.

Rather than simply "evolving" as an artist since gaining national recognition and plenty of accolades with his first album, Shiplett has consciously and passionately forged his own path musically with 'Fingers Crossed'. Spending a year pouring over every detail of this record, writing and arranging, playing many of the instruments, as well as a large portion of the engineering/producing in his studio, the singer is more immersed in his craft than ever before.

Bucking both the typical Nashville-style songwriting and production approaches, the musician delved deep and traveled wide to find inspiration to pen the seven track album that helps establish him as one of the country's premier roots artists.

From the contemplative first single, 'Waiting on the Rain' and enticing initial kick drum pulses of the love-torn song, 'Closer', to the beautifully painful bridge in the song 'Freeman' (written by Daniel Huscroft), there are many intoxicating reasons for his listeners -- both old and new -- to hit play and play again.

Hearing the piano chords and Shiplett's vocals echo into silence to close out the album's final track, 'Every Road', it's hard not to wish for just one more song.

One part enigma, one part lover, one part creative...JJ Shiplett is many things, but as a musician, the singer is greater than the sum of these parts and always leaves a lasting impression.