

# RELIGIOUSLY

THE ALBUM



BAILEY ZIMMERMAN

# "I FELT LIKE GOD WAS TELLING ME, 'THIS IS YOUR TIME. RIGHT NOW. YOU WANNA CHASE SOMETHING? CHASE THIS."

Establishing himself as one of music's most exciting new voices, Bailey Zimmerman strikes a sweet spot between timeless American country, rafter-rattling arena rock, and the kind of authentic storytelling that tugs at the heartstrings with a sense of humor and a whole lot of soul. It's why in just over two years' time, he's already logged nearly 2 billion global streams, earned two Multi-Platinum #1 singles, and broken more chart records than you can count on two hands.

This young artist with the rasp of a seasoned rocker and the heart of a sensitive songwriter has arrived at the cusp of superstardom on his full-length debut LP, *Religiously. The Album*. (Warner Music Nashville/Elektra). Heartbreak, change, growing up, letting go, moving on, and (maybe) finding love are just a few of the relatable stories Zimmerman shares on the album with intimate attention to detail. The anxiously awaited project hits close to home, with songs that recall every little detail—whether it be the last ember of a Marlboro light, the emptiness of a goodbye kiss, or the final tear before walking out the door. It's raw and real 21st century country with just enough of a rock kick to bring an arena to its feet.

"It's a story of my life—who I am, what I've been through, and what I think about on a daily basis," he explains. "Every song is how I felt at the time. There was a lot of heartbreak and putting pride to the side. On some of those days, I was really down, and I'd think, 'I wish I had a song talking about what I was going through!'"

So, he wrote them himself.

"I want my music to mean something," he explains. "I want it to make people feel something, to have an impact on their life. I think that's what makes it connect so well with the audience."

Right out of the gate, Bailey connected to audiences by holding nothing back. As the story goes, he grew up "in a town of around 1,200 called Louisville, IL." After quitting his job "building gas pipelines all over America," he took his last \$1,200 and recorded his very first song in early 2021.

He says, "I felt like God was telling me, 'This is your time. Right now. You wanna chase something? Chase this.'"

Betting on himself was the biggest risk of his life. And in one of the most thrilling stories to come out of Nashville in a generation, he bet right...

In the wake of "Never Comin' Home," he introduced a signature style steeped in dyed-in-the-wool country storytelling tradition and amplified by hard rock energy. In 2022, he began shattering one record after another starting with his debut EP, *Leave The Light On*, which shined as the biggest streaming country debut of all time and the most-streamed all-genre debut of the year. By that December, he stood tall as Billboard's #2 Top New Country Artist and #4 Top New Artist Overall.

Meanwhile, he garnered acclaim courtesy of Forbes, Rolling Stone,

The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Billboard and many more. Plus, he delivered powerhouse performances on Good Morning America, Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve, Jimmy Kimmel LIVE! and the 58th Academy of Country Music Awards and is out on the road now for Morgan Wallen's 2023 One Night At A Time Tour visiting stadiums coast-to-coast. Along the way, he also earned a pair of multi-platinum singles with his #1 debut, "Fall In Love," and its follow-up, the six-week #1 monster single, "Rock And A Hard Place." Speaking to his wide-ranging appeal, he even landed a song on the Fast X Original Picture Soundtrack, collaborating with YoungBoy Never Broke Again and Dermot Kennedy on "Won't Back Down."

During this time, he wrote and recorded what would become *Religiously. The Album.*, documenting the past two years in real-time. In addition to "Rock And A Hard Place," "Fall In Love," "Fix'n To Break," and "Where It Ends," he set the stage for this body of work with current single and title track "Religiously." "Combining wistful Dobro licks with acoustic guitar before shifting to a heavier country-rock arrangement, 'Religiously' faces an ongoing heartache with resolve" (Rolling Stone), exemplifying Zimmerman's deft balance of dusty country arrangements and roll-your-windows down rock 'n' roll choruses with a confessional core.

"If I had put my pride to the side, I might still have the one that really truly loved me," he admits.

On "Warzone," softly plucked acoustic guitar underlines emotionally charged verses before banjo picks up the pace and crashes into the hard-hitting hook, "How we gonna call this house a home, living in a Warzone?" Zimmerman explains that "it's really about relationships these days. Sometimes, a house can feel like a warzone. When you come through the door, it's just screaming, fighting, and constant problems."

Then, there's "You Don't Want That Smoke." In a twist as intriguing as the song's genre-bending, the track flips a classic story upside down. "It talks about a guy warning another guy that the girl he's talking to is nothing but problems," he reveals. "At the end, you realize he's talking to himself, and he's done it before and is going to do it again. She's nothing but trouble."

Elsewhere, he takes "God's Gonna Cut You Down" for a spin on the Indy 500. He pays homage to the Johnny Cash original with an unapologetically gritty performance buoyed even higher by a fretboard-burning guitar solo.

Fittingly, *Religiously. The Album.* concludes with "Is This Really Over?" Its sunny chorus belies the pain of a breakup as he urges, "Let's call it a bad night. Don't call it 'The last time.' Is this really over?"

This kind of honesty will keep fans coming back for a long time.

"I have to hold back tears every time I hear one of my songs sung back to me live," he smiles. "It's just a dream. I can't really comprehend it, but I'm grateful, man."