

ROSS COPPLEY

By all outward appearances, Ross Copley is just the guy next door — ball cap, worn jeans, a hip T-shirt. But when this quintessential Southern boy with the playful disposition is armed with his guitar, a mic, and a crowd of screaming fans, prepare to be entertained by an anything-but-average performance!

Born and raised in Lexington, N.C., Copley has been singing since he was just 4 years old. Having put some rock bands together throughout high school, he found that sitting behind a drum kit wasn't where he belonged. "I knew I wanted to be the person entertaining the crowd," says Copley, 25. So he traded his drumsticks for a guitar, and he's been performing up and down the east coast ever since.

Not your typical born-and-raised-on-country story, Copley's was more of a natural evolution. "When I was doing the rock thing in high school, I found more and more that I was writing songs that were more along the country lines ... more melodies, more storytelling ... songs that have the emotion that people love about country music."

Now a self-proclaimed country music convert, Copley describes his music as "not completely country, but not completely rock." Either way, Copley's sound ... his songs ... both are indisputably authentic and pure. "I like to write and perform songs that people can sing along to," says Copley. And that's exactly what he delivers.

Inspired by the energy that Garth Brooks brings to a live show, Copley says that's how he aims to perform ... in a way that gets the crowd to respond. "I love the shows that are energetic and keep you entertained without the gimmicks," he explains, "... where it's all about the music."

And that's exactly what he and his band have been doing for the past four years — delivering acclaimed live shows to sold-out crowds. Averaging more than 100 performances a year, Copley has established a solid and dedicated fan base throughout the Eastern U.S., all the while working toward his goal of a landing a record and publishing deal.

More inspiring than his tireless dedication, endless energy, and passion for music, though, is what Copley *doesn't* possess: an ego. He's humble about his successes thus far, and he's wide-eyed and ready to get started on the next phase of his career. "I know where I came from, and my family has always been behind me," says Copley. "I took a leap of faith with my music career, and I put it in God's hands." And by all accounts, so far, so good, and it's only just beginning ...

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