

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Color Me Badd: On Time And Chance

In making Time And Chance, Color Me Badd left nothing to chance. Recalls Bryan Abrams, "With this album, we were able to take our time, work out our ideas, and get really creative."

The songs on the new album certainly reflect a diverse confluence of styles. Pairing themselves with a select group of master producers enabled the band to bring out the best in each track. Here, the members of Color Me Badd reflect on the songs that comprise Time And Chance:

"Close To Heaven" - "This is a ballad we did with David Foster producing," says Mark. "Bryan had the idea. It's kind of like an old Everly Brothers tune with an acoustic feel. It's about how being with the right woman is as close to heaven as we're likely to get in this life. We added the Spanish lyrics and David put a beautiful classical guitar part in it."

"Time And Chance" - "Most groups write about relationships with women," notes KT, "but this particular song is about life in general, the good and the bad. It's based on Ecclesiastes 9:11." Adds Sam, "There haven't been too many spiritual ballads since Marvin Gaye. This song rides on a groove somewhere between the Isley Brothers and hip-hop." All four share the lead vocals on this song, which was produced by DJ Pooh (Ice Cube's producer).

"Groovy Now" - "This is the sexiest song on the album," says Mark with a smile. "We all sing lead on it. The song says, 'Let's get busy.' You can picture the blacklight velvet paintings on the wall!" It, too, was produced by DJ Pooh.

"Choose" - This song was written by the band and producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Recalls Kevin, "They were playing tracks for us for hours, all ballads, but we wanted something more uptempo. So they



showed us this track, and though we were dead tired from listening all day, we jumped up when we heard this one, ran upstairs and finished writing it." Adds Sam, "It's about a love so deep, one person would even be willing to leave the other if it would make them happy."

"God Is Love" - "A lot of people believe when they sing or talk about God they have to be real solemn," observes KT, "but this song is fun, a celebration." Adds Bryan, "The song talks about how we travel a lot and see many different kinds of people with a variety of beliefs. But, when you show love to someone, you're expressing something about God."

"Wildflower" - This was written by David Foster years ago with the group Skylark. It marks the first time

Color Me Badd worked with a string orchestra. "Just look at David's track record," says KT. "He's worked with Whitney Houston, Earth Wind & Fire, Chaka Khan, Chicago, just about every body. He taught us a lot."

"Trust Me" - On this song, Sam's father, Dan Watters, accompanied the band on cello. "He's first chair with the Oklahoma Symphony," says Sam. "This tune reminds me of an old Bee Gees or Beatles song. It's almost a folk song."

"Rosanna's Little Sister" - One of the album's more impertinent tunes, this one is a particular favorite with the band. "It's about a guy with a girlfriend named Rosanna," says KT, "only she has this younger sister who happens to be hot, too. However, we just want everyone to know that this

about that incredible sense of loneliness."

"How Deep" - Oklahoman Mark Murray is a talented 19-year old producer and old friend of the band. He worked with the band on this original composition. "It's based on a sample from a Prince song called 'Crazy You' from his very first album," says Sam who sings lead vocals together with Bryan.

"In The Sunshine" - "This one has a Kool and the Gang feel to it," says KT. "It's a real party song." Like most of the tracks on the album, it was written by CMB.

"Let Me Have It All" - Sly Stone was an exceptionally strong influence on CMB, and this track is a cover

of one of his songs. "It's a completely honest lyric," notes KT. "It starts out talking about wanting a girl, and moves out from there to just wanting everything and not stopping until you get it. That's something we can relate to."

"I Remember" - Written and produced by Color Me Badd, this song is striking in its simplicity. "It's just an acoustic guitar and vocals," says Bryan. "Like a campfire song. In it, we reminisce about younger days, family and friends, and focusing on different stages of life. It might hurt a little bit for some people to look back, but that's what makes you who you are, so we say hold on to those days."

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