



songwriter & producer

# Zach Heckendorf

DENVER BORN AND RAISED MUSICIAN ZACH HECKENDORF RACED OUT OF THE GATE IN HIS EARLY TEENS; TWELVE YEARS LATER HE'S IN FULL STRIDE. *by Tracy Greenhalgh*

**When did you launch your first record album?**

"When I was a student at Cherry Creek High School. I was always really imitating my heroes, trying to sing and do what they did. [At the time] I loved Jack Johnson, Jose Gonzales, and Blink-182."

**You've since put out four albums and already performed at Red Rocks. What was that like at such a young age?**

"It was wild. While most of my friends were leaving for college, I was headed to New York, signing with a major label. I cherish the experience, especially the national tours with heroes like Rodrigo y Gabriela, John Butler Trio, and Michael Franti & Spearhead. My college years were spent studying these performers, night after night."

**Did you decide to leave music when you enrolled at Columbia University?**

"I hustled with the music business for years and hit a wall. I regretted never going to college, and that part of me wouldn't quiet, so I enrolled in Columbia's creative writing program. Music was always with me, but my goal was to put it down. In the end I came to the conclusion that making music is what I do. I've tried to put it down multiple times, and it just keeps coming back, and saying, 'no!'"

**What's the theme of your most recent album, Hawk Talk?**

"There's one song entitled 'Stronger Than I Once Was' that's really the core of the entire album. It's the idea of rebirth and coming back stronger every time. The album is about my moving into adulthood and how I see the world within a spiritual framework."

**How would you explain your wide-ranging appeal?**

"The [people] who come to my shows range in age from around 16 into their 70s. I think a person with an acoustic guitar, or a piano, writing songs from their heart, is timeless. I'm a pop artist in many ways, but I'm going for something deeper in the message; I think that resonates with all different types of listeners."

**What drives your music?**

"The creative experience, that feeling of finding gold, whether in a song, the studio, or a live performance. It's also part of my spiritual journey and good for my health."

**What's next for you?**

"My family and community are here in Denver, and it feels good to be back. This past year I did the 50 State Live Stream Tour in partnership with Live Nation and House of Blues Anaheim; a cool way to connect with viewers. I'm working on an upcoming live gig in Denver, and I've expanded my creative reach and just produced a song for Denver-based acoustic duo, LVDY. It's been exciting to work with other artists on their journey." **OLW**



© 2021 HAPA RESTAURANTS

1999

LOCALS ARE MAJORITY

2021

LOCALS ARE MINORITY

FEEDING COLORADO SINCE 1999.

<p><b>DENVER CHERRY CREEK</b> 3030 E 2ND AVENUE 303.322.9954</p>	<p><b>BOULDER PEARL STREET MALL</b> 1117 PEARL STREET 303.473.4730</p>	<p><b>LANDMARK</b> 5380 GREENWOOD PLAZA BLVD. 303.267.8744</p>	<p><b>LODO</b> 1514 BLAKE STREET 720.354.5058</p>
--	--	--	---



BREAKFAST · LUNCH · DINNER · COCKTAILS

PANZANO

909 17TH ST 303.296.3525 PANZANO-DENVER.COM PANZANODENVER