

alexis grace KIDDO



JANUARY 20, 2015

KIDDO

1. I'm So Done
2. Never Had You
3. James Dean
4. Barney's Song
5. Peace, Love and Harmony
6. Will You Miss Me

Featuring fan favorite "James Dean"

 @alexisgracemusic

 /alexisgracemusic



PRESS:
elizabeth@signalflowpr.com | 901.440.8085

Alexis Grace's debut EP has been about a year in the making – or a lifetime, depending on how you look at it.

When the former American Idol finalist releases *Kiddo* January 20, she'll be sharing the fruits of 18 months of labor and 27 years' worth of perspective. The record comes less than a year after the passing of her father – a bass player who'd recorded with Ann Peebles and worked on Beale Street for more than 40 years – the biggest musical influence in her life.

"As his health worsened, my motivation became ever more apparent that I had to do this and do it right," she says. "Not just because I wanted to make my dad proud, but because I saw how hard he went at it every day, and that he didn't stop until he literally couldn't play anymore. That's dedication, and that motivated me to my core." So she'll call the record *Kiddo* – a nickname from her dad – but that title belies what's inside. These six songs are mature, wise, fully realized: authentically Alexis Grace.

In 2012, Alexis found herself in Branson, Missouri, for the summer, performing in *Finalist Live* at the Andy Williams Moon River Theater. It was through that production she met co-conspirators Thomas Bergstig and Nikke Karlsson. "It started with us writing a song together," she says. "And I knew at that moment, 'these are the guys I want work with.' They are beyond talented, incredible musicians."

That song was "James Dean" – they finished it and released it in the summer of 2013 – and though Alexis could tell it was the start of something special, it would be another full year before *Kiddo* would really take shape. Other projects came and went over those 12 months, but "James Dean" and the experience of writing with Nikke and Thomas haunted Alexis – in the summer of 2014, they decided to make it happen. They would finish the bits and pieces of songs they'd put together and create an EP. Much of the music was composed in Alexis Grace's home studio, built by Bergstig, who in that intervening time had become her husband, co-writer and creative partner. "The rest was recorded all the way in Göthenburg, Sweden, at producer Nikke Karlsson's studio. "It's absolutely amazing what you can do and produce with today's technology," Alexis says. "And I had so much fun making this record. That was the best part. I play guitar and fiddle around on piano, but singing is my strong suit and I use my voice like a musical instrument. I got to experiment with so many different vocal sounds and harmonies."

The result is a collection of songs that shows off not only Alexis Grace's diverse range of influences, but the power and versatility of her voice. From the bold attitude of the first single, "I'm So Done" -- with its crunchy guitar, synth keyboard, 90s drum beats, steel guitar, even fiddle – to the romance of "Never Had You," a co-write between Alexis and her husband.

This record has been a long time coming for some of Alexis Grace's loyal fans since her appearance on Season 8 of *American Idol*, but she hopes it'll be worth the wait. "I want to make them proud," she says. "And I think this record will. I'm a 27-year-old woman – this record really embodies the changes and feelings most women go through at this time in their life. It's about love – I've been through those tempestuous and irrational relationships – but it's also about overcoming that and feeling pretty damn solid, which I do right now."

It's on that solid footing that she shares *Kiddo* with her fans and the world on January 20.