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CARLY RAE JEPSEN

"CALL ME MAYBE"

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 THOMAS KING & BAND  
"LAST NIGHT LIVING"



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Hailing from Vienna, Austria, Thomas King was born to be a performer. He took up the drums at age four, soon after expanding to piano. He first took to the professional stage as a child actor, starting in many stage plays and on television. At 16, Thomas King discovered his voice and subsequently joined a cover band, where he adopted the vivacious stage presence he brings to every live performance. Constrained by the lack of options in his native Austria, he decided to take the plunge and relocate to the land of limitless opportunities: Los Angeles.

Thomas King found his fabulous band, Ramon Blanco (Guitar), Gui Bodi (Bass), Andres Torres (Drums), and Daniel Elias (Keys), and started performing at clubs on the Sunset Strip, in Hollywood and in Beverly Hills. In order to further hone his vocal chops, he called upon noted voice coach Ron Anderson, who has previously worked with such luminaries as Lenny Kravitz, Usher, and Alicia Keys.

Thomas King recorded his first EP, *High on Life*, with producer Justin Jagoda in 2010 and was named one of the "Hot 100 Unsigned Artists" by Music Connection magazine. He just finished his second EP, *Last Night Living*, with Grammy-nominated, Juno Award-winning producer Brandon Friesen (Sum 41, Nickelback), and engineer Bryan Carlstrom (Billy Idol, Alice in Chains, The Offspring) in Los Angeles. Most recently, Thomas King returned from the Epic Proportions Tour, which covered California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, and Nevada, including an appearance at the SXSW music festival in Austin, Texas.

Some of Thomas King's role models who are known for their enigmatic stage presence are Michael Jackson and Prince (mixed in with the theatrics of David Bowie). However, when it comes to songwriting and vocal styling, he draws influence from Robbie Williams, Billy Idol, and The Killers.

#### What project are you currently promoting?

Thomas King: My band and I are excited about our new EP called *Last Night Living*. It is the second record we have made in Los Angeles since I moved here from my native country, Austria, three years ago. When we recorded our current EP, *Last Night Living*, we had the

pleasure of working with a Grammy-nominated production team, lead by producer Brandon Friesen. Working with this team was a dream come true for us. There are 4 songs on the EP. We released two singles from the record: the up tempo song, "IT STARTS TONIGHT," had airplay in the U.S., and the slower tune, "STAY WITH ME," was in rotation on Austrian radio stations.

#### What is your thought process when working on new music?

TK: Writing is an essential part of what we do. It all begins with an inspiration. The process of starting with this inspiration, putting all the emotions into a song, sharing them with our fans, and eventually hearing the live audience sing back our songs is a truly magical experience.

#### What inspires your music?

TK: A lot of our songs are about passion and relationships. It could be a brief encounter between a boy and a girl in a club, where sparks are flying, or about an honest relationship, where you learn from each other, face challenges, and grow together.

#### How would you classify your music?

TK: "Billy Idol meets the Killers," i.e. pop/rock with a strong groove and catchy melodies.

#### How would you describe yourself a group?

TK: My band and I are all high-energy performers. Our goal is to entertain the audience and go on a ride with them.

#### What sets your music apart from others in your genre?

TK: It's the unique blend and talent of the people I am blessed to work with. I found my amazing band when I moved to Los Angeles. They are all from different countries just as I am. Ramon Blanco on guitar is from Spain, bassist Gui Bodi and keyboardist/percussionist Daniel Elias hail from Brazil, and our drummer Andres Torres comes from Colombia. They are not only gifted musicians, but also great friends, which creates a very special chemistry when we perform together.

#### When you are working on a new song... Do you already have a concept in mind or do you rather write on top of music/beats?

TK: Ramon, Gui, and I have regular writing sessions. We usually do start with a concept, either of the lyrical content, or the overall feel of the song. Once we have the basics down (melody, chords, lyrics), Andres, a producer in his own right, comes in and we record a demo. We then hit the rehearsal room and see how a song feels live.

#### What are some of your musical influences?

TK: Personally, I have always been inspired by Michael Jackson and Prince, for their musicianship and stage presence. A lot of people compare me to David Bowie and Billy Idol.

#### What obstacles have you faced in the music industry?

TK: Today, it is not enough to be "just a musician." You have to have a clear understanding of the business side of music, and come up with a game plan. Following through with it can be a hard task at times. I believe the better the team is that I am working with, the greater the results will be.

#### What hard lessons have you learned while working in the industry?

TK: We are based in Los Angeles, which is a great city to craft a product and network with like-minded people. The amount of talent among musicians, producers, songwriters, etc., is unmatched. However, when it comes to building a fan base, L.A. is a tough place, because it's oversaturated. We were fortunate to be included in a 5-week "Epic Proportions" tour throughout the Southwestern U.S. recently, playing high schools and colleges. That's a great way to build a fan base.

#### What direction do you see the music industry going?

TK: The relationship between the artist and the fan is becoming more and more important. For example, I am excited to see crowd-funding projects like "Kickstarter," where fans raise money to support a band's projects. An early combined effort like this where everyone "owns" a piece of the project is a great way to build connection and loyalty between artists and fans.

#### If you can have any collabo...

TK: Definitely Prince. In my mind he is a genius, and I would love to collaborate and learn from him!

#### What is your next project?

TK: We are currently writing material for an upcoming album. Our current EP has been well received among listeners and live audiences, so we are continuing this path of writing and performing high-energy songs with catchy melodies. It's all about the songs. We want our fans to connect and find themselves in them, whether it is excitement, love, passion, or heartbreak.

#### Do you have any major performances or tours planned for 2012?

TK: We are planning to continue the "Epic Proportions" tour in the fall, and reconnect with our fans at high-schools and colleges all across the country! Exciting times ahead!