

SETH COHEN PR

SETH COHEN PR

For Immediate Release

July 16, 2009

**THE BOSTON HERALD, 'A-' CD REVIEW:**

**"Brantley's big-time debut comes roaring at you like an exploding time capsule of '70s rock and pop, sound-checking such greats as Fleetwood Mac, Bruce Springsteen and Elton John without ripping them off"**

**THE BOSTON GLOBE, 'Editor's Pick':**

**"You might hear stylings of Billy Joel, Van Morrison, or Elton John, but it's all Tim Brantley"**

**THE WASHINGTON POST:**

**Brantley's Songs "Recall the singer-songwriter heydays of the '70s but with an urgent, modern edge"**



**THE BOSTON HERALD**  
**"Goldtop Heights"**

**A-**

By Kevin R. Convey, July 10, 2009

*Brantley's big-time debut comes roaring at you like an exploding time capsule of '70s rock and pop, sound-checking such greats as Fleetwood Mac, Bruce Springsteen and Elton John without ripping them off. The 25-year-old Atlanta-born Brantley credits his mom's record collection for his throwback ears - and she must have been a big Todd Rundgren fan, since it is Rundgren's pure pop craft, his gift for a hook and his sweeping arrangements that Brantley's style most recalls. But give Brantley credit for being his own man - he's written 10 winners, and not one of them sounds like anything else made lately. Download: "Just Like Me."*

# The Washington Post

## THE WASHINGTON POST

7/2/09 By Marianne Meyer

**Live! Entertainment**

***Georgia native Brantley played piano as a child, but it wasn't until he was in his early 20s that he chose music as his career, inspired by a video by singer-songwriter David Gray. While working for his dad's construction company, Brantley studied old albums, returned to the piano, picked up a guitar and began writing songs and doing gigs.***

***Winning a band competition in 2005 led to studio time with Russ T. Cobb, whose credits include Avril Lavigne and Bowling for Soup. Brantley didn't rush to release that material. Instead, he took two years to reconsider the process and built his studio in downtown Atlanta, determined to self-produce his official debut, "Goldtop Heights." The album's 10 piano-driven arrangements recall the singer-songwriter heydays of the '70s but with an urgent, modern edge.***

***Performing Songwriter magazine compared Brantley to "a young Elton John with an even larger heart on his sleeve." Other scribes have brought the names of Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel, Hall and Oates and Warren Zevon to the list. Brantley's single, "Damage," was featured on an episode of MTV's "The Hills." A five-song sampler of his music is available at <http://www.blackledgemusic.com/sampler/timbrantley>.***



## THE BOSTON GLOBE

**'Editor's Pick'** July 13, 2009 By June Wulff

editor's  
pick ✓

***You might hear stylings of Billy Joel, Van Morrison, or Elton John, but it's all Tim Brantley, whose recent release is Goldtop Heights. The Georgia native sings and plays piano, guitar, and percussion, and has said***

***that the record is "me seeing things through a kid's eyes in the way that everything is big and heightened when you're a child." The pop rocker is one of the openers for Josh Hoge.***

Rocker **Tim Brantley** continues to earn praise for his distinctive sound – many critics have compared his debut CD 'Goldtop Heights' to early **Bruce Springsteen, Elton John, Billy Joel, Hall and Oates** and **Warren Zevon** – though respected author/journalist Dave Marsh of **Sirius XM Radio** notes: ***"Tim Brantley sounds like Tim Brantley to me. How many new singers you can say that about in a year, or even a decade? I eagerly await his future."***

Brantley is a throwback to an era when musicians used distinct images and dynamic production to tell cinematic stories. His music takes listeners on a rock journey that evokes radio hits of the 1970s, when **Todd Rundgren, Billy Joel, Journey** and **Fleetwood Mac** were topping the charts with larger-than-life songs that told surprisingly compelling personal narratives. Here is additional, recent coverage:

## **MEDLEYVILLE INTERVIEW**

**Striking a Balance** By Chris Junior, 6/09

# **THE BALLAD OF TIM BRANTLEY**

**Rocker recalls his road to music and more**

***"There is an element of spontaneity throughout Goldtop Heights, a dynamic, mature collection that conjures up thoughts of the best rock singer/songwriters of the 1970s."***

Before Tim Brantley became consumed with music, playing baseball occupied a lot of his time. And even though his primary tools these days are guitars and pianos, not bats and spikes, he still makes baseball comparisons when talking about his music career.

One important lesson Brantley says he learned while making his debut album, *Goldtop Heights* (Blackledge Records), was discovering "what you're really going to get out of every guy on the team" while recording.

"It's almost like making a batting order," the Georgia-based singer says. "When you go into



the studio to make a record, you have to know that you can't push this guy too hard, and this guy is going to give you exactly this -- the balance of all that can really make or break a record."

*Goldtop Heights* (released in April) is a record that was a long time in the making, and the same can be said about Brantley's decision to pursue music professionally.

Brantley played piano as a child but says he never really harbored a serious interest in being a musician, nor did he want to spend his adult life working a 9-to-5 job. But during his early 20s, while attending a community college in Georgia, Brantley says he caught the music bug and chose to leave academics behind.

When asked if there was a specific moment that influenced his decision to become a musician, Brantley sheepishly recalls seeing a **David Gray** video around 2001 for the song "Babylon."

"I just loved his voice; he was one of my favorite artists at the time," Brantley says. "And I said, 'Man, I'd love to do that.'"

"It's just as simple as that," the 29-year-old adds. "I'd love to tell you that I was listening to a bunch of **[Bruce] Springsteen** records or **Led Zeppelin** and started playing guitar and figuring it out that way, but really, it's not that cool."

While working plumbing and construction jobs for his father's company, Brantley studied old albums, rediscovered the piano, began to learn the guitar and eventually wrote songs and played gigs around Georgia.

A turning point came when his de facto manager at the time – "a local guy who helped me to get going in the beginning," Brantley recalls – pressured him into playing a band competition around 2005.

"I didn't want to do it – [mostly] because I was scared," Brantley says.

He won the competition, and that led to recording an album of material with **Russ T. Cobb**, whose studio credits include **Avril Lavigne** and **Bowling for Soup**.

When that project was finished, there was a period of about two years during which Brantley says he "sat back and tried to understand how I made that, how I went about it and what would it take to do it again – and how much of that record was really because of me."

Brantley came to the conclusion that for his next project, he should be the primary producer.

"I did consider other producers," he says, "but in the end, I knew that I had to have a period of time where I could just, by trial and error, make this record. And I knew nobody was breathing down my neck to get this finished."

Brantley built a studio in an artsy district called Castleberry Hill in downtown Atlanta, and he, his regular backing band and select "specialists" spent about a year working on *Goldtop Heights*, which he likened to an obsession.

"It was a beautiful girl I could never have, so I treated it that way," he says. "Day and night, it's all I lived and breathed. Thank god I had my friends around me who at least knew I wasn't crazy so they could tell other people, 'No, it's OK. He's fine. He's going to be OK.'"

Brantley often went with the fourth and fifth versions of songs, and there was lots of overdubbing. He had "notebooks full of lyrics for individual songs," and in some cases, he would finish a track and then decide to rewrite the lyrics for the entire tune.

"I'm a pretty good judge [when it comes to] overproducing something and also overthinking something, and I really only got into a spot maybe twice where my head was spinning," Brantley recalls. "[When that happened], I just put it away for a little while."

There is an element of spontaneity throughout *Goldtop Heights*, a dynamic, mature collection that conjures up thoughts of the best rock singer/songwriters of the 1970s. Brantley cites the process behind the song "Brooklyn" as the way he often worked.

"I sat down with my drummer to work that song out," he says. "I always push 'record' when we're working something out, and I almost exclusively work on my songs with him in the beginning because that's the foundation for everything."

"We played one take through ... and I [took] that recording and put it in a safe place. And when we went back to actually track the song after I worked everything [else] out, I made him play exactly what he did [the first time], note for note."

"So in a sense, you capture that freshness, but you have to know when it feels right."

[http://www.medleyville.us/2009/06/the\\_ballad\\_of\\_tim\\_brantley.html](http://www.medleyville.us/2009/06/the_ballad_of_tim_brantley.html)



**Melodic.net** By Rickard Holmgren 6/09

## **"A Killer Album."**

*Tim Brantley has released a killer album with "Goldtop Heights". Melodic.net had some questions to ask, here are the answers.*

**Hi there Tim, how are you doing?**

**Tim Brantley:** Doing well, poolside in Austin Texas right now so probably better than most...

**Tell us, who is Tim Brantley?**

**Tim Brantley:** He's my dad, I'm Tim Brantley II, he's a really great guy and he has one of the best mustaches in history...

**How would you describe your own music?**

**Tim Brantley:** I get this question a lot and the answer is always different, my friends call it glock rock... I don't really have any perspective on it anymore...I guess its just good old fashioned rock and roll...

**You have been compared to early Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Hall & Oates, Billy Joel and Warren Zevon. Who would you say was your biggest influence?**

**Tim Brantley:** Probably Wings and Springsteen for this record, I was really into both while I was making it...but probably a lot of different things from that era... I tried to live in a box while I made this record...

**Looking at videos of your performances, one can see you playing both piano and guitar on stage, which one do you prefer?**

**Tim Brantley:** Piano

**You did get a 4-star rating at Melodic.net, but how would you handle a really bad review?**

**Tim Brantley:** If you cant handle criticism you're in the wrong line of work... it motivates me but sometimes it can wear on you.....

**How do you write a song? What does the creation process look like?**

**Tim Brantley:** Its kind of like a storm...it comes through, sometimes unexpected some more intense than others...its never planned, I cant write like that..

**What music do you listen to yourself?**

**Tim Brantley:** Wilco, Meatloaf, and Michael Jackson right now...

**Who would be your dream artist to share a stage with?**

**Tim Brantley:** Dolly Parton...seriously...or Kenny Rogers...either one...

**What is, in your opinion, the best and worst thing with being an artist?**

**Tim Brantley:** Best, meeting new people...worst, not being home enough...

**Any plans of touring Europe?**

**Tim Brantley:** It has been discussed, trying to make it happen in the good old U.S.A. first though...that's a priority...

Thanks for answering the questions. Any final words to our readers?

**Tim Brantley:** Yes, thank you for reading... pick up a copy of "Goldtop Heights" tell me what you think and come out to a show and say hello...

<http://www.melodic.net/interviewsOne.asp?interviewId=259>

Richmond's alternative for news, arts, culture and opinion.

# STYLE

## STYLE WEEKLY

Richmond, VA, 7/09 by Mike Hileary

***With long hair and scraggly facial hair, Tim Brantley looks a bit like some Southern, neo-***

***hippie drifter, a man whose musical predilection would fall somewhere between the Black Crowes and the Allman Brothers Band. It comes as bit of a surprise then when you start to hear the pop sensibilities of Elton John and Billy Joel in his self-produced debut, "Goldtop Heights," a reference to Atlanta's skyline. Tracks such as "The Race" and "Damage" coat themselves in late-'70s rock melodies, supported by Brantley's Springsteen vocal punch. Recently raising his profile with a special performance on the "Today Show."***

on-the-town

**Ann Arbor News/Grand Rapids Press/Mlive**

6/22/09, by Nicole Corley



## **In Session: Tim Brantley**

***Tim Brantley plays rock--more specifically, a modern take on the pop/rock that flowed from the seventies. It's a warm sound, complete with piano, the occasional harmonica, natural vocals, long hair, and aviators.***

***After I listened to Goldtop Heights the first time, it made sense when I learned he cites Fleetwood Mac and Elton John as influences.***

***I'd say "The Race" captures the album well--dynamic, strong vocals, lively piano, and lyrics built with detailed, storytelling images.***

***This is Brantley's debut album, but it feels like he already knows who he is musically--there isn't one track that seems like the misfit. It's a smooth listen, pulling familiar elements into a package he can proudly call his own. **B+*****

## PERFORMING SONGWRITER MAGAZINE

JUNE 2009 Issue CD review By Beth Walker

“Georgia native Tim Brantley offers a refresher to the pop-rock scene with *Goldtop Heights*, his debut LP. The 10 self-produced, piano-driven arrangements are a cool throwback to the '70s with an urgency in the here and now, despite the retro feel. Each song is its own unique novella, and Brantley's voice is a powerful instrument wielded beautifully and without hesitation over ear-grabbing melodies; think of him as a young Elton John with an even larger heart on his sleeve. All the songs are effortlessly engaging, but among the best are the title track, which references his adopted hometown of Atlanta, and "I Can't Make You Want Me," a soulful ballad that poignantly laments unrequited love. Full of passion and inspiration, *Goldtop Heights* provides ample treasures for prospectors seeking passionate and profound sentiments.”

Brantley's current single 'The Race' debuted at an impressive #2 Most-Added at AAA indicator stations, trailing only **Ben Harper**. His smash single 'Damage' was featured on an episode of MTV's **The Hills** earlier this month; **Performing Songwriter Magazine** described his live show as *“awesome,”* and other reviewers have raved as well: *“His songs sound like new classics...”* Brantley's music *“plays like a great lost album from 1975.”*

Watch Tim and his full band perform 'Damage,' live in concert:

[http://www.blackledgemusic.com/video/timbrantley/damage\\_live2.mov](http://www.blackledgemusic.com/video/timbrantley/damage_live2.mov)

Check out a five-song sampler of the album, here:

<http://www.blackledgemusic.com/sampler/timbrantley/>

### On Tour Now:

July 16	The Space	Evanston, IL
July 17	Arts on the rock festival	Birmingham, AL
July 19	Birdy's	Indianapolis, IN
August 1	12 <sup>th</sup> & Porter	Nashville, TN

Visit <http://www.myspace.com/timbrantley>