

JOHN.k

We share songs like stories, passing them around to our friends and family. Like any solid story, a song lasts when it hinges on truth.

Unforgettable late nights, bright early mornings, wild relationships, boozed-up confessions, and a crazy journey from a cozy South Florida town to the cusp of stardom inspire the music of JOHN.k. Sparing no detail, his songs unfold with the candor of a conversation between best friends over cold beers. Coupled with a dynamic range, fiery falsetto, and sun-soaked pop production, this sort of honesty positions him for a major breakthrough. Attracting 50 million streams by 2019 and acclaim from *Nylon*, *Billboard*, *Huffington Post*, and the *Today Show*, he immediately connects on his Epic Records debut EP, *if we never met*, and forthcoming full-length album.

“Honesty is huge,” he exclaims. “Being vulnerable in the lyrics is very important. At the root of every tune is something that hits home for me. I’m taken back to those moments when I sing.”

His journey would be marked by numerous formative moments. Born and raised in Pompano Beach, he grew up in “a house of music.” His grandma Bunny, the daughter of a prominent New York trumpeter, sang in the church choir. At home, his dad played guitar and rocked classics by Santana and The Eagles.

In fact, pops’ rendition of “Leaving on a Jet Plane” often brought a three-year-old JOHN.k to tears. “I thought my dad was actually going to leave,” he admits with a laugh.

With bongos, pianos, drums, and guitars readily available, his house became a crash pad for high school buddies to jam at will. Grandma Bunny taught him piano and gifted him a recorder at 14. An “addiction” to singing and recording began at this point. He spent countless hours belting along to Maroon 5’s *Songs About Jane* in addition to obsessing over Gavin DeGraw, Jason Mraz, Otis Redding, and The Beatles.

Honing his voice, he developed a striking signature style.

“I love old trumpet lines and guitar riffs, so I always approached vocals like guitar solos,” he exclaims. “I feel like all of those things are connected for me.”

Eventually, he packed up and moved to Nashville with his dad. He entrenched himself in the songwriter community and cut his teeth in a stream of sessions and gigs around town. He eventually caught the attention of manager Rob Zarrilli and Florida producer FVCES. Their first independent collaboration “Runnin’” took off. Organically touted on Spotify’s *New Music Friday*, it quickly surpassed 1 million streams. Elvis Duran took a liking to him and dubbed him “Artist of the Month” on the *Today Show*. Meanwhile, 2018’s “OT” exploded with 18 million Spotify streams. By the end of the year, he landed a deal with Epic Records and returned to the studio.

Now, he formally introduces his simmering and striking sound on *if we never met*. Swaying between a hummable clean guitar riff and steady claps, the first single “Rum n Tequila” drowns sorrows from the aftershocks of an ex’s engagement with an intoxicating chant. His lyrics practically pop out of the

speakers on admissions like, “*Scroll through my feed, heard ‘bout your engagement, sorry I forgot to post ‘Congratulations’!*”

“Lyrically, it’s about getting out of a breakup and not being motivated to do *anything*,” he explains. “You’re trying to find happiness after a down time. *‘Rum n Tequila’* is straightforward and in your face. After you sever ties with someone, everything seems to remind you of this person. Sometimes, she gets over it faster than you do, which sucks. So, a drink is the only thing to help you ease the pain.”

Elsewhere, “1999” nods back to the days of “*denim jackets, Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, and the VMAs.*” Then, there’s “Chill,” which pairs a soulful hook and airy production. The project’s name sums up his gratitude.

“The title track *‘if we never met’* is dedicated to somebody very important in my life,” he goes on. “At the same time, it’s dedicated to my entire team. If I never met them, I wouldn’t be here. We’re a family. This music embodies everything we go through together.”

In the end, JOHN.k’s story is just starting.

“The connection is emotionally based on having a good time and feeling good,” he leaves off. “The message is always to send positivity. I’m just a normal guy, and I’m sharing my life. Through failure, success, and life, we grow. I’m chronicling all of this.”