

# michael MASSIMO – bio

“Intense” is a word people often use to describe Michael Massimo and his music. His songs chronicle the trials and triumphs of the human spirit, often as jubilant as they are brooding. As the dramatic frontman for the rock band that is his namesake, Massimo’s music invites comparisons to bands like Live and the Goo Goo Dolls, but at the heart of it all is a songwriter who knows his craft, blending penetrating lyrics with the anthems to back them up. Through a career that has included three independent releases, over 1,000 performances (from college campuses to packed NYC clubs), and airplay all over the US on college and several commercial stations (as well as in a dozen foreign countries and the internet), Massimo continues to gain accolades from fans and critics alike.

Currently, has just completed work on two new CDs: a 5 song studio EP simply titled *MASSIMO* and the career retrospective disc, *Now and Then*. There has been no shortage of material to draw from. In a one-year period, he accidentally set his car on fire (with himself asleep inside!), had his guitars stolen and suddenly lost his father. But his experience in music has served him well, and Massimo’s maturation as an individual and as a songwriter is obvious in this new crop of songs. They’re more stylistically and lyrically focused than songs on previous albums, firmly in the rock genre with even more of an emphasis on melodic hooks. When asked how his music fits in a market that seems to favor style over substance Massimo says, “My music is not for everyone and that’s fine with me. I’d rather have a small devoted following than a huge fickle audience that changes with the latest trend. When you can touch someone at their core, that’s what counts. That’s where the craft is. That’s where the artistry is.”

Massimo maintains a fervent following and his live show is why. He’s an engaging performer, pounding on his guitars, preaching to the masses with his urgent vocal delivery. One fan put it this way: “It sounds like the world’s gonna end if he doesn’t get the song out.” His voice, a strong 4-octave tenor, can be as soothing as it is defiant, often uniting with the others in the band for 3 part harmony. Massimo cites the singer/songwriters of the 70’s as major early influences, but his music owes more to current modern rock bands like Stone Temple Pilots than to James Taylor. Fans have described it as “a mix of John Mayer and Creed” while critics have called it “more epic and grandiose than your average pop song.” The songs satisfy listeners on more and deeper levels than most, staying with you long after they end.

With his passion and power as a songwriter and intensity as a performer, Michael Massimo is truly an artist of today’s turbulent times. For those who care to listen a little deeper there is so much more to hear. With an album’s worth of new songs and a solid band to play them, Massimo plans to gain even more fans with his next album and eventual tour while pursuing the inevitable label deal. Asked what keeps him going, Massimo seems to have found the key. “It’s important to think of this as your ‘life’s work.’ There is no finish line.”

“Michael has stumbled upon brilliance with his latest CD (*Precious Seconds*). His incredible attention to details has this album laced with an abundance of exciting musical moments and passages. From the jagged guitar hooks and syncopated rhythms that snare you on the title track, to solid story songs that captivate your attention, this is a fulfilling album. This could be the one that takes him to the next level. Savor it.” – *Songwriter’s Monthly*

“Michael’s melodies rank with the best ever played on radio.” – *Musician’s Exchange*

“Michael employs sophisticated techniques on his Martin acoustic, juxtaposing rich tonal variations, bell-like harmonies and delicate arpeggios with ecstatic choral explorations and passionate singing.” – *The Renegade*

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