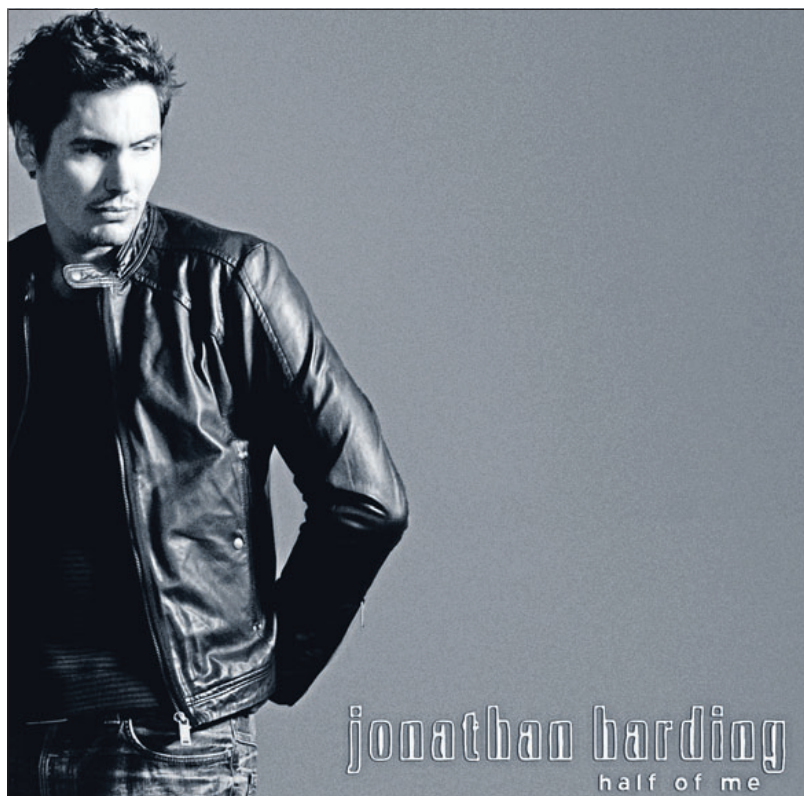


NEW MUSIC: Jonathan Harding is about to release his debut EP, *Half of Me*.



Five-track EP offers a pleasant vibe

► REVIEW

Artist: Jonathan Harding
 Album: *Half of Me* EP
 Rating: ★★★1/2
 Available on iTunes from January 24.

A native of Timaru, Jonathan Harding is making his mark internationally with the release of his debut EP, *Half of Me*. The five-track effort was recorded in Auckland but mixed and mastered in the United States. With its slick production, Harding's singer-songwriter vibe was delivered just in time for a sunny weekend. Starting with *Stone's Throw*, the tone of his music is similar to that of Howie

Day or Ryan Cabrera. It's the kind of music you would want to hear when you're sitting outside at a cafe in summer having a catch up with friends. Acoustic based, but not completely unplugged. The EP then veers into a slight jazz sound on *Calling Me* which suits Harding's lower vocal range. This was probably my favourite track. He then cruises through the other tracks armed with an acoustic guitar. Closing track *Balloons* bucks that trend for a more rock sound which was a nice surprise and a good way to end the EP. What I think stood out about this EP was it had a bit of diversity for just five tracks. Although Harding is from New Zealand, he has not confined

himself to the small industry here where most artists just stick to one genre. He has the potential to make a name for himself outside of this country. The bulk of music released by Kiwis does not really resonate with international audiences, but maybe Harding's can. He makes easy-listening music pretty easy to listen to.

■ Reviewed by: John Hobbs

► RATINGS:

- ★ Not my cup of tea
- ★★ Just bearable
- ★★★ Quite pleasant
- ★★★★ Rather fierce
- ★★★★★ Jaw dropping