

HAYDEN BAKER INKS DEAL WITH RONNIE DUNN'S PERFECT PITCH PUBLISHING COMPANY

Hayden, along with three other independent singer-songwriters, were tapped as talent for the country music icon's new Nashville-based venture



Back row - Braden Carney, Ronnie Dunn, Haley Dunn, Front row - Hayden Baker, Thomas Perkins, Ariel Boetel, Dakota Striplin
Photo courtesy of Perfect Pitch Publishing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- Katy, TX native, Hayden Baker, has signed a publishing deal with Ronnie Dunn's Perfect Pitch Publishing company.

Hayden Baker was the inaugural signee last year and is now part of four up-and-coming songwriters chosen to kick off the country superstar's long-awaited new venture. Rounding out this talented group of writers are Dakota Striplin and Ariel Boetel, along with Thomas Perkins, who co-wrote Ronnie Dunn's current single, "Broken Neon Hearts". Despite Hayden being on Ronnie's radar for quite some time, it was Ronnie's daughter, Haley, Perfect Pitch's VP of Writer and Artist Relations, that got the ball rolling. After hearing Hayden's 2020 album "Against the Grain" she told Ronnie "there's your guy". The neo-traditional country record, released independently, spurred the Top 20 charting single "Waitin' on Love" at Texas country radio and a viral acoustic video of his autobiographical bonus release, "A Dream: The Baseball Song". The record also features "Texas Moon", a song he co-wrote with Barrett Baber who also had a hand in writing Cody Johnson's hit single, "Nothin' on You".

With two Top 40 radio singles, hundreds of thousands of streams, an Emerging New Artist nomination at the TCMA's under his belt, and a new whiskey set for release within the coming

weeks, Hayden has been making waves in the Texas Country Music Scene. He has shared the stage with multiple country music stalwarts such as Tracy Lawrence, Easton Corbin, Larry Gatlin, Joe Nichols, and the great Willie Nelson, as well as a smattering of Texas Country Music Legends like Aaron Watson, Randall King, Parker McCollum, and Wade Bowen. Last winter, the former collegiate baseball star-turned country music artist also made his Gruene Hall debut.

For Hayden, choosing to take the next step in his career with Perfect Pitch Publishing came down to two things; Ronnie's star power and his promise to be a tough coach to help polish Hayden's songwriting abilities. He noted that Ronnie was adamant that he complete his college degree first. Two days after graduating from Texas A&M in the spring of 2021, Hayden headed off to Nashville to officially sign his first publishing deal.

"I'm a huge fan of Ronnie's stuff; I'm a huge fan of Brooks & Dunn...that's one of my main influences as far as country music as a whole and songwriting go...I was an athlete, and I'm used to tough love. Ronnie said, "I'm going to be very hard on you and a tough coach, and you're not going to like it sometimes", and he has held true to his word".

Hayden has welcomed the opportunity to work with some of Nashville's top hitmakers and has penned close to 60 songs in the last year and plans to double that number in the coming months. "I noticed from the first trip up there the difference in speed that they can put out songs and the attention to detail and quality. I've written with so many people, and I've learned so much from every single one of them".



Ronnie Dunn, Hayden Baker, and Ira Dean
Photo Courtesy of Hayden Baker

Though he only recently began working with Ronnie and his team professionally, Hayden's full-circle moment with the country music legend was nearly 20 years in the making. At just three

years old, Hayden received a small *Mark II* guitar autographed by Ronnie that said “Hayden practice”.



Kix Brooks, Hayden Baker (18 mos.), Terrie Baker, Ronnie Dunn, and Bruce Baker
Photo Courtesy of Hayden Baker



Ronnie Dunn autographed guitar
Photo Courtesy of Hayden Baker

When asked if there was any correlation between the naming of Perfect Pitch, his childhood chance meeting with Ronnie, and his collegiate baseball career, Hayden responded, “I will say that Ronnie is a huge fan of using baseball references to explain songwriting...His favorite is “We don’t need hits, we need home runs.” I would not be surprised if Perfect Pitch came to be because of the baseball references, but it also could be the singer’s perfect pitch, too.”

Next up on Hayden’s agenda is his upcoming whiskey launch through his partnership with MKT Distillery in Katy, TX. “Against The Grain,” named after his 2020 album, will be available at MKT Distillery and surrounding Spec’s and Total Wine stores in the coming weeks.

About Hayden Baker

At age 3, Katy, Texas native Hayden Baker received a gift. A small-scale, Mark II acoustic guitar signed by the most successful country music duo of all time. Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn. Underneath Ronnie’s signature, he wrote the same single word of advice that the great Chet Atkins had told Ronnie when he started out.... “Hayden practice”. Hayden did.

Fast forward 20 plus years later, and Hayden has released two independent projects that have amassed hundreds of thousands of streams, and he has charted two singles in the Top 40 on the Texas Regional Radio Report. Hayden is known for his ripping Telecaster guitar solos and knack for weaving the modern-day vernacular into the lyrics of his songs while keeping them undeniably country.

He has shared the stage with multiple country music stalwarts such as Tracy Lawrence, Easton Corbin, Larry Gatlin, Joe Nichols, and the great Willie Nelson, as well as a smattering of Texas Music Legends like Aaron Watson, Randall King, Parker McCollum, and Wade Bowen.

His guitar playing has garnered praise from heavyweight pickers like Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio), Brent Mason, and Brad Paisley, who has described Hayden as a “phenomenal player” and his songwriting skills have been commended from many industry giants Ronnie Dunn, Clay Walker, Chris DuBois, Wade Bowen, and Brad Paisley. As Clay put it, “You have to be born with the gift of songwriting to be successful. This kid was born with it”.

In November of 2020, Hayden released a 10-song project, and also he received a phone call from the man who left him that note on the old Mark II guitar. A few months and several trips to Music City later, Hayden was the inaugural artist signed to Ronnie’s new publishing company, Perfect Pitch LLC, and has since written several songs with the Country Music Hall of Famer.

Hayden is still playing shows throughout the Texas circuit and beyond while working on collecting a batch of songs for his next project with some of the best writers in the country.

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