

SMOOTH JAZZ



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Chart Notes by Gordon Murray

With R&R SJ Chart Manager Gordon Murray

By R&R Staff

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Recommended listening: What would you say if I told you that the coolest (or as my retro intern says, "totally gnarly") new music this week is by a guy who was born in Bermuda, raised on a sailing ship throughout the Caribbean, marking the debut release for the actor Matthew McConaughey's label and who rocks out playing acoustic-based roots reggae music?

Kona, a sky blue budgerigar bird, might say "that's crazy," but it's true! Artist: Mishka. Title: "Above the Bones." Label: j.k. livin' (just keep livin'). Thanks to a discovery download from iTunes and a performance on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Mishka debuted this week at No. 1 on Billboard's Top Reggae Albums chart, too, and deservedly so. This record is unique but not bizarre, different but accessible, sometimes acoustic but jammin'. Mishka is the real deal, the type of talented spirit that comes along rarely, not unlike Matisyahu, Lady GaGa, Norah Jones or Gnarlz Barkley, who has the potential to bring new listeners into the genre as a whole. Check it out, man.

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