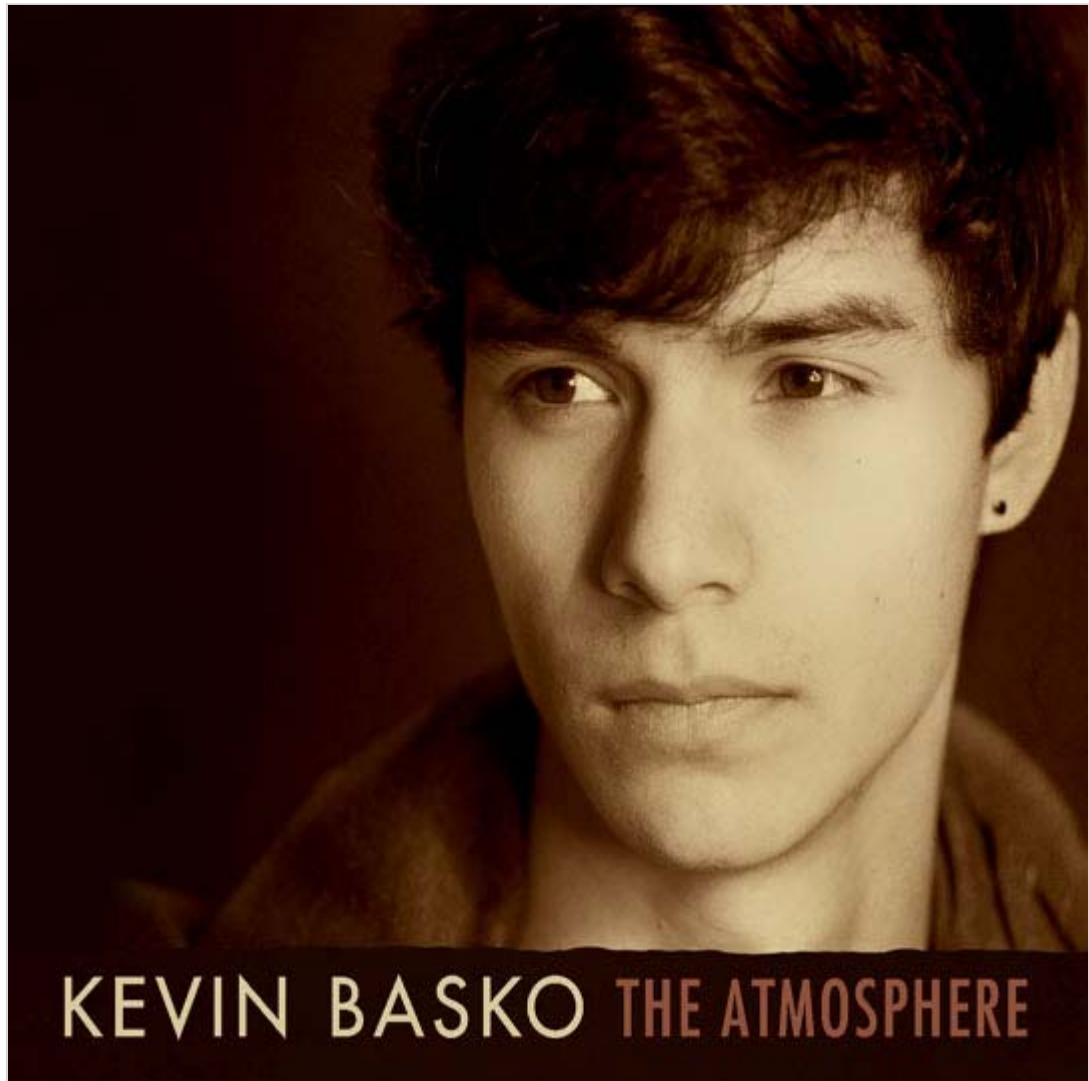


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WITH NEWS FROM NORTH OF BOSTON AND BEYOND

NEW VOICES: Basko rises out of 'The Atmosphere'



Courtesy Photo

'The Atmosphere' is an impressive debut by 18-year-old Kevin Basko.



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Anyone who's heard Rebecca Black's "Friday" (or anyone over a certain age, anyway) has probably feared for the future of music, and humanity, not necessarily in that order. But just when you've about given up, you hear an album like "The Atmosphere" (Dreamland, NSB) by 18-year-old songwriter, guitarist and vocalist Kevin Basko, and all is right again

It would be too much pressure to hang the future of pop on Basko's young shoulders, but he sings and plays with a confidence that makes you think he could handle it.

You know the album won't be typical teenybopper fare right off the bat with "Keep Me Cool (Song for Jenna)," which features a blaring sax — the lyrics may be in the same neighborhood as "Friday," about driving "in the car with the window down" for authenticity it's an entirely different universe. (One gets the sense that Basko, a New Jersey native, owes far more to the heroes of the Springsteen's catalog.)

Basko has a fluid, easy guitar style reminiscent of John Mayer, and the songs range from the smooth pop of "Beautiful" to a bluesy romp of "Wash Me Away." Sure, it would be nice if he rocked a little harder, and his reedy voice could use more power, would it be wrong to suggest he start smoking Marlboros?

Still, he has plenty of time to refine his already impressive style and sound — Basko will be relocating from New Jersey in the fall to attend the Berklee College of Music. We can most likely expect great things by the time he goes back.

"The Atmosphere" is available at cdbaby.com as well as [iTunes](http://iTunes.com), Amazon.com, digstation.com and other digital retailers.

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