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# Alan Jackson sticks with traditional country sound

By LESA ANN KING  
 Special to THE BATTALION

**Alan Jackson**  
**A Lot About Livin' (And a Little 'Bout Love)**  
 Arista Records

Nashville has declared October as Country Music Month, and Alan Jackson could not have picked a better time to release his album "A Lot About Livin' (And a Little 'Bout Love.)"

Alan Jackson maintains his status as one of the top country male vocalist and songwriters in his latest release. His CD delivers a clever mix of traditional country blues, cryin' steel guitars and lively Tennessee twin fiddles.

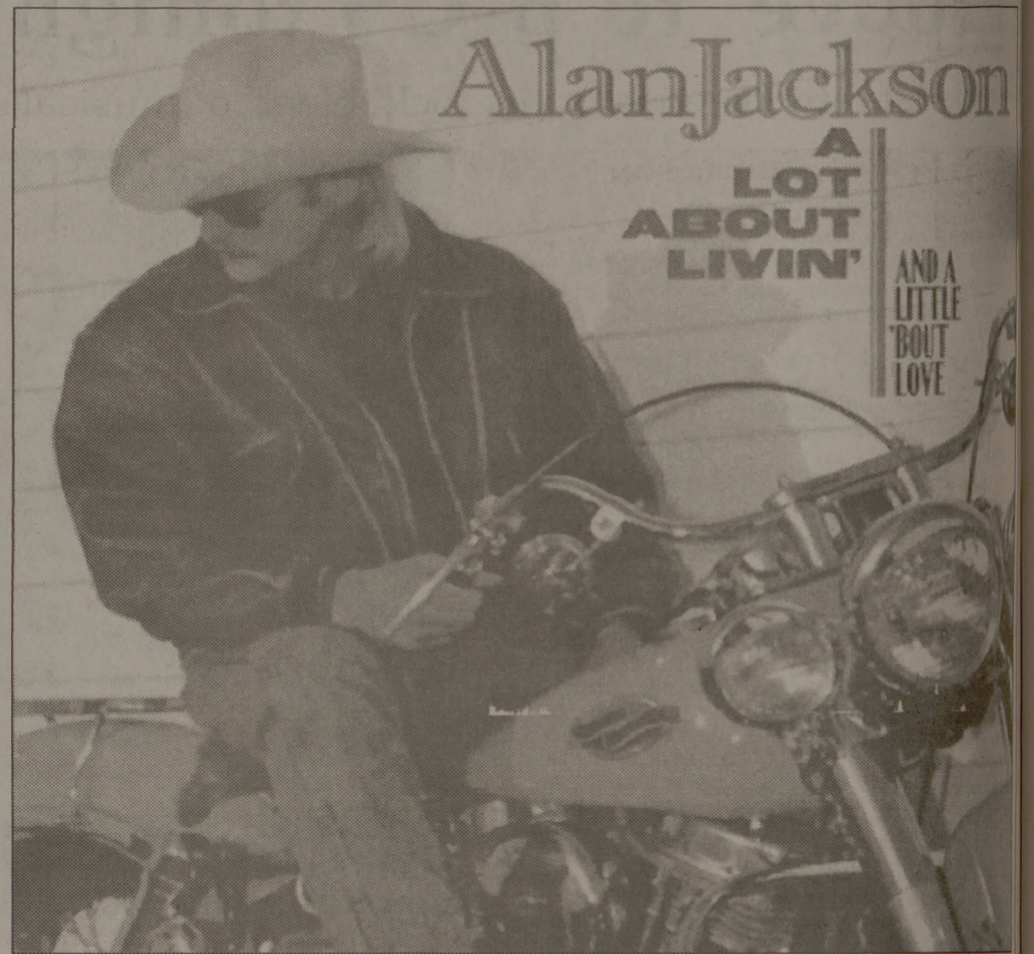
"A Lot About Livin'" comes alive with upbeat country cuts such as "Chattahoochee," "I Don't Need the Booze (To Get a Buzz On)" and "She Likes It Too." These cuts paint vivid pictures of good times in the country - like parties by the river, young love and cruisin' through the town on a motorcycle.

One of the major strengths of this CD is how Jackson takes a sad country lyric and makes it upbeat and fun. You forget the song is a sad one, like "Tropical Depression," "She's Got the Rhythm, I Got the Blues" and "Up to My Ears in Tears."

This CD also includes the usual sad, heart-breaking country ballads like "If it Ain't One Thing, It's You" and "Who Said You Can't Have it All."

Alan Jackson and Randy Travis co-wrote the album's first release "She's Got the Rhythm, I Got the Blues," a song about a cowboy that leaves his woman and then regrets it as he watches her on the dance floor.

Many of the new country artists release



Alan Jackson's latest album stays true to traditional country sounds.

their first CD packed with traditional country music, then follow it up by changing to more progressive country music. Jackson, however, stays true to the traditional country sound that brought this Georgian into

the country music spotlight. So, if you love down-home country music, "A Lot About Livin' (And a Little 'Bout Love)" will be right at home in your CD collection.

# Christian singer bridges gaps with love, music in Rudder

By JULIE POLSTON  
 Feature Writer of THE BATTALION

Christian singer/songwriter Babbie Mason is building bridges with her music to create racial and denominational unity in the midst of diversity.

Tonight, Mason will perform at a free concert sponsored by the Baptist Student Union at 7:30 in Rudder Auditorium.

In her fourth and most recent album, "A World of Difference," the opening cut entitled "From Love to Love" makes a strong statement about unity.

"We've got to love all our brothers and sisters," the lyrics say. "How can we say we love God when we don't love each other?"

Mike Graham, director of the Texas A&M Baptist Student Union, said that anyone who appreciates musical and vocal talent will enjoy Mason's performance.

"We've brought a lot of different people in over the years," he said. "And to me, she is the best Christian songwriter in the nation."

Mason writes on a variety of topics, many of which reflect her background.



Christian singer Babbie Mason.

The daughter of a pastor, she was raised in Jackson, Michigan where she served as pianist

and choir director for twenty years. She later graduated from Spring Arbor College with a bachelor of arts in music education.

In recent years, Mason has become actively involved with her church in Georgia, where she lives with her husband and two sons.

Mason works in environments as diverse as her background and her music.

"One week we might be in a black charismatic church, where worship is considered a verb - an action word," she said. "The next week, we could be in one of the most conservative Southern Baptist churches in the nation. Or we could be overseas in Africa worshipping with people who have no concept of time."

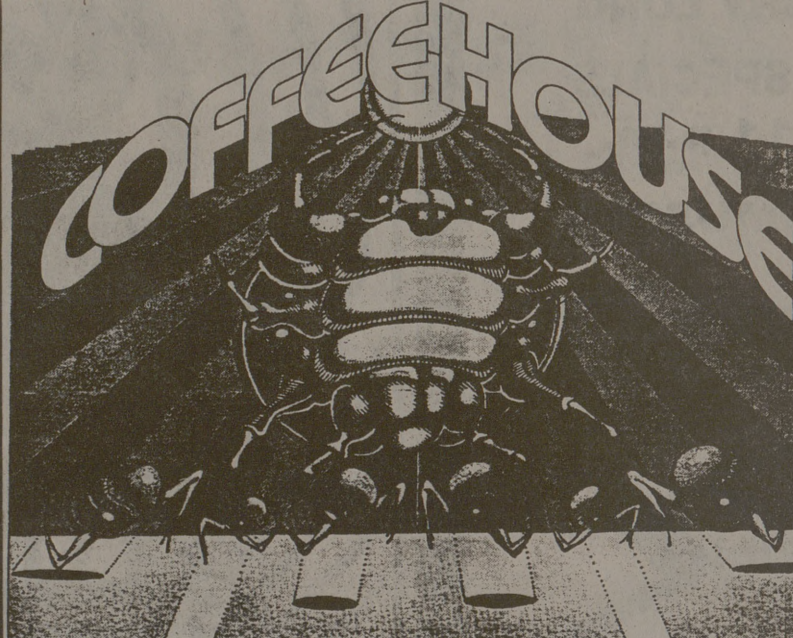
Despite her popularity in the music business, Mason said she is amazed that she is as well-known as a songwriter.

She said when she first began songwriting, she wrote from her heart and did not realize until a few years ago that there was a technique to writing songs.

"I'm trying to value my songwriting as heavily as I do my singing," she said. "Maybe even more so because the life of a song will last longer than the length of one of my concerts."

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