

Benson Boone's intimate, diaristic pop songs are constantly evolving as he makes his way from fun-loving teen to global hitmaker. Still only 21, the singer-songwriter demonstrates remarkable growth on *PULSE* — his second EP within 12 months. Over the course of five multi-layered songs, the newcomer showcases his trademark powerhouse vocals as well as a newfound versatility and vulnerability that hints at vast global breakout potential.

With upbeat pop anthems calibrated for long summer days and raw, restrained ballads, *PULSE* is the work of an artist in transition. "These songs are definitely more me," Boone says of the project. Not that 2022's *Walk Me Home...* EP, which produced the hits "GHOST TOWN" and "In The Stars," wasn't authentic. "*PULSE* just expands and builds on that world," he says. "I'm testing new waters and loving it. This is where I am now."

And his new sound is intoxicating. While Boone has proved to be a master of the sad song, *PULSE* brings a little levity into the mix. That's particularly true of lead single "Sugar Sweet"—produced by hitmaker Jason Evigan—which finds the Monroe, Washington artist parting ways with a no-good girlfriend over zippy, feel-good production. "It's got a really sassy vibe," he laughs. "I wanted to write a song with tempo and rhythm. I'm going to enjoy performing this one."

While "Sugar Sweet" is upbeat, it still displays the insight and honesty that sets Boone's music apart. "It's about someone who took a lot from me," he says. "I got tired of it and finally said no." The end of a love affair is captured in the visual, which was shot in Hawaii. "I was at the airport and we still had no female star," the breakout star recalls. "I looked across the terminal and saw a cute girl." He asked her to be in the video and she agreed. "It worked out perfectly."

If Boone's down-to-earth approach seems unusual for a rising superstar, it's important to remember that he only stepped in front of the mic for the first time in 2019. His friends entered a Battle of the Bands competition and the easygoing senior volunteered to play piano. When their frontman backed out at the last minute, Boone stepped up. "I didn't know I could sing," he says. "But it just kind of worked."

Which is something of an understatement. Boone's voice led him to *American Idol*, where he blew the judges away with his audition. However, the then-teenager's instincts told him to take it slowly, and he dropped out to work on his craft. Soon thereafter, Imagine Dragons frontman Dan Reynolds reached out and invited him to Las Vegas. Reynolds was so impressed that he signed Boone to his Night Street Records.

After completing his pop apprenticeship, Boone dropped the emotional breakup ballad "GHOST TOWN," which amassed more than 530 million streams and became his first entry on the Billboard Hot 100. Heartbreak also shaped the soaring follow-up, "In The Stars," which proved to be an even bigger hit. Both singles found a home on his acclaimed debut EP, *Walk Me Home...*, establishing him as one of music's premiere new artists.

With momentum on his side, Boone pivoted again, experimenting with tone and tempo on *PULSE*. In addition to the feisty "Sugar Sweet," he also lets loose on the summery "Coffee Cake" — a song about instant attraction: "It's basically what goes on inside of my mind when I see someone intriguing and wondering what would happen if she ever noticed me."

Then there's "Lovely Darling," an upbeat take on the experience of being with a person who doesn't seem to be all in it with you. "You question whether they want to stay or not — it's a horrible feeling," says Boone. "But, when you listen to 'Lovely Darling,' it doesn't feel so horrible..." he adds. While Boone embraces fun on the EP, he still digs deep on a couple of contemplative numbers.

"It feels natural to write melodies that are on the sadder end of the spectrum," he says. That description applies to EP highlight "What Was," which finds the hitmaker at his most vulnerable. "It's a very reflective song," Boone says. "It's about wishing you could start over again and change your past, or perhaps change the way you treated someone." While most of his music is introspective, the 20-year-old occasionally draws inspiration from those close to him.

"Little Runaway," for example, is about his oldest sister Kaylee. "She struggles with mental health, some days are really hard for her," Boone says. "It's about being there for her, sometimes just letting someone know that you're there for them is all you can do." It's the kind of sincerity and heartfelt emotion that has brought him a series of global hits, industry buzz, and sold-out tours of Europe and North America.

"I still don't even think I've processed it," Boone says of his success. "I just go day by day and try my best. I don't even have time to fully register how everything has changed." While the last few years have been a blur, he's certain of one thing. "Writing music and inspiring people is my passion, it's what I love to do," he says.

In addition to the release of *PULSE*, 2023 has seen Boone embark on a worldwide headline tour, emerge as MTV's Global PUSH Artist for October, and reach 1.7 billion career streams. With new single "To Love Someone" and a hotly anticipated debut album on the way, Boone is certain to touch more hearts than ever before.