

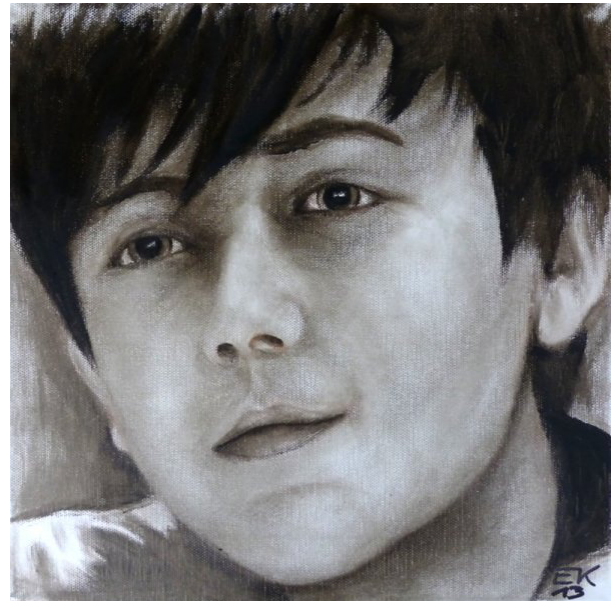
GREYSON CHANCE – CAREER AND SONGS 2013

The fourth year of his career (with YouTube videos)

Review

Having probably done more work in 2011 than any other musician of his age in one year, Greyson had a much less spectacular year in 2012. This may have been because he had to learn for High School, but also because he had to cope with pronounced growth and a distinct change of voice.

It is precisely the fact that in spite of his voice change he kept re-interpreting his songs, making it difficult to prefer the new versions over the old or the other way round, that puts his enormous musical talent on display. Let me illustrate this with two examples:



Greyson Chance in 2012, aged 14
Oil (sepia) on canvas, early 2013

Take My Heart:

This was the way the song sounded in February 2012, when the EP was recorded:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9js-6lChaAU>

The same song in November, at a Singapore concert:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pox9GfE3no>

Rolling In The Deep (cover of Adele's song):

In April 2012 in Manila: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKGpDgw4pFQ>

And in August in Vancouver: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTQUkXsME44>

Apart from the five new songs on the EP, various 2012 cover versions are going to be remembered, for instance:

My Way: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW8dEi7qQ1U> or

Crazy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRMn6Sym394>, but I am going to remember especially

Landslide: Having picked *Running Away* as my favourite among the 2011 songs and listened to it more than 3,000 times, it is now this version of the Fleetwood Mac song that I can listen to again and again (of course in mp3 format) without tiring of it.

There is nothing artificial about this music — it is as natural as though nature itself were playing it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShMA1o4YUA>

That is his Schubertian side that I referred to in my 'genius' article: instead of constructing, he simply lets music grow. Somebody once characterised him as an 'old soul in a young body', and I think that this is the only way to do him justice. He usually approaches music with a great deal of seriousness and respect, which is instanced especially by *My Way*, but also by *Landslide*.

Novelties

Parting with Interscope

Since his career had taken off in 2010, Greyson had been under contract with **Interscope Geffen A&M Records**. On 24 January 2013, he tweeted: 'So the word is out that myself and Interscope have parted ways. It was a positive parting, for both of us, and I will always remember them as my first home and my first record label. I will miss my friends at IGA, but I think that this is a positive thing for my artistic career and for the future. HOTTN would've been nothing without their staff and I am forever grateful to have bonded with everyone at Interscope. #newfrontiers'.

(HOTTN is short for the title of his album *Hold On 'Til The Night*.)

One insider commented: 'In this day of YouTube, internet downloads, and digital music it makes sense to abandon the large cumbersome labels and search for a smaller, more independent label that can offer a more comprehensive 360° type record deal. To be honest, artists don't need the large labels as much anymore.' (Under a 360° type deal the label provides financial backing for every eventuality and in return is given a fixed percentage of the musician's total income.)

Greyson is operating under the corporate name of **Greyson Chance Music, L.L.C.** that names the Corporate Officers as Greyson himself, his father Michael Scott Chance, his mother Lisa Schaefer Chance, and a media attorney, Rachel Rosoff, based in Beverly Hills, California. The company was founded on 6 December 2010.

Many fans feared his career was coming to an end when he left Interscope, and he perceived the necessity to put the rumours to rest with an open letter on 19 February, promising them he was continuing.

First car, new management and new music

Until April just about all the news to be had was that he was busying himself with his first car, a 1966 Ford Mustang, which he named Moses and announced to be his on 20 March (see a photography in the article 'Greyson, Moses and Landslide').

On 21 April, he tweeted about new songs ('you are gonna flip at these new songs, be ready for some surprises') and on 28 April (the third anniversary of his YouTube Paparazzi cover, usually equated with the beginning of his career) he released a still somewhat rough audio sample of a new song (presumptive title: **I Hope It's You**) – a rather interesting development of his previous style: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBydFB-4iL4>

On 8 May he announced having passed ninth grade, which he had mastered online ('hey! I just passed ninth grade...still three more to go. yikes.')

In May it also became known that he had signed up with **Bill Silva Management** in Hollywood, where Christina Perri and Jason Mraz, among others, are under contract.

He spent the days from 14 to 25 May in Bali to write songs, thus escaping the devastating tornado that raged over Oklahoma on 20 May. Before leaving, he raised hopes with the announcement: 'can't wait for you to hear these songs...you're gonna flip'.



Greyson 'working' in Bali and with his team

He spent the time from 5 to 8 July in Manila in order to perform at a launch party for MCA Music and Smart Music, the Philippines' biggest online music portal, on the 7th. Videos of two new songs recorded on this occasion have since shown up at YouTube: a cover-version of a Radiohead song and a new song of his own entitled **Football**, which some of his fans regarded as too artless. The most remarkable aspect of his new song appears to be a return to the high-pitched notes of 2010 and 2011.

The hairstyle has changed once again.



Football:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1iVI7jflhl> (a recording of disappointing quality)

With lyrics:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSCOaG9pYsw>

A high-quality cover of this song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypPO88kQAc> (to 3:25)

High And Dry (Cover; original by Radiohead):

This video contains most of the song; unfortunately the quality of the recording is rather bad: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCbC0j7XzP4>

Radiohead, for comparison: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKkr29EGc-Y>

Insomnia:

14 July saw the release of a fifteen-second passage from one of his new songs, *Insomnia*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuOmmuwd48A>

In July he also did studio work in Nashville TN, shown in this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MX5RN3GoPM>

In August, having turned sixteen, he received his driving licence.

On 15 September, with a much-matured voice, he presented some of his new songs at a charity event (TJ Martell Family Day, NYC) that also saw appearances by Jason Mraz, Ed Sheehan and Austin Mahone. The video that shows his complete performance (20:47 long) sounds good, although it is shaky:

Temptation (6:04), **Victim** (10:15), **Football** (16:08, but this time without the high-pitched notes heard on 7 July). He leads off with *Sunshine & City Lights*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VY2pLmjns0>

Temptation only: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiDLKz9o6vE>

Victim only: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciTQYjXSR0g>

With lyrics:

Temptation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybRHi-3_Xio

Victim: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK8ngunzdNs>

At the soundcheck for the concert, containing *Sunshine & City Lights* and *Victim*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4AyX-q2AQg>

Erwin Kohaut ©

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