



The Dave Matthews Band has figured out how to have it both ways. During their 12 years of recording and touring they have struck an amazing compromise between the fans of their hit songs and their jam happy followers: record a studio album with a tight breezy commercial sound then, release two or three live albums to flesh out songs and present them in their unedited form. The cycle begins again with "Stand Up", only the band's fifth studio album among their thirteen releases.

They have had a different producer for the last three albums, so it hasn't been easy for them to pull off this balancing act. The producer for "Stand Up", Mark Batson has worked with pop artists like 50 Cent and Eminem. He brings a light airier touch to the grooves of this album.

Dave was a very vocal anti-war and John Kerry supporter last year and there are a few references here, some powerful ("Everybody Wake Up") and some just silly (American Baby Intro.) As always, there are great jazz/funk jams that will get the crowds to "Stand Up" this summer. There's even a song that is only two minutes long ("Smooth Rider") faded out just as the band is about to kick in. I guess that'll be "continued" on stage.

They are the biggest band in America right now so it's hard to argue with the "Dr. Jekyll / Mr. Hyde" approach to their albums. "Stand Up" gives you just enough to leave you wanting more, which DMB will ultimately deliver in concert, this June in Va. Beach or on another live album or three.