



MAYER HAWTHORNE

A STRANGE ARRANGEMENT

Release Date: SEPT 2009

File under: NEO-SOUL



Mayer Hawthorne grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, just outside of Detroit, and vividly remembers, as a child, driving with his father and tuning the car radio in to the rich soul and jazz history the region provided.

On his debut album *A Strange Arrangement*, **Mayer** draws inspiration from the music of **Smokey Robinson**, **Curtis Mayfield**, and the legendary songwriting and production trio of **Lamont Dozier**, **Brian Holland**, and **Eddie Holland Jr.**

Mayer was introduced to **Stones Throw** label head **Peanut Butter Wolf** by mutual friend **Noelle Scaggs** of the **Rebirth**. "He showed me two songs and I didn't understand what I was listening to," **Wolf** recalls. "I asked him if they were old songs that he did re-edits of – I couldn't believe they were new songs and that he played all the instruments."

After meeting in person, it was even harder for **Wolf** to believe that **Hawthorne** was also the lead vocalist. Few expect such heartfelt sentiment to come from a 29-year-old white kid from Ann Arbor, but he has caught the ear of his family at **Stones Throw**, as well as **BBC Radio 1** host **Gilles Peterson** and producer/DJ **Mark Ronson**, who have been singing **Mayer's** praises.

Hawthorne has produced and played instruments for much of his life, but never intended to become a singer. He isn't formally trained, but here he is, a new school soul sensation, who has taken the Motown assembly-line production model and eliminated nearly every element but himself and a few hired hands.

"I think Mayer is the only artist in the history of the label that I've signed after hearing only two songs," says **Peanut Butter Wolf**. "Sometimes, you just know it's the right thing to do." And for those willing to believe anything is possible, be grateful to have **Mayer Hawthorne** on the scene. It's not just throwback music anymore – this revival is all about progression.

KEY TRACKS:

3. Just Ain't Gonna Work out
4. Maybe So, Maybe No
5. Your Easy Lovin' Ain't Pleasin' Nothin'
8. One Track Mind
9. The Ills

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