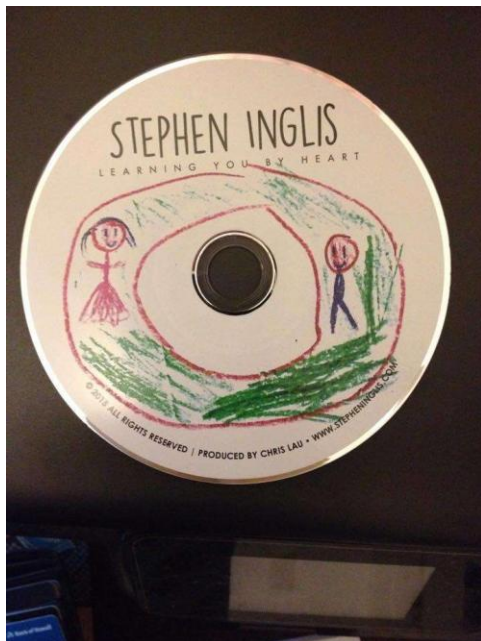


Album Review: Stephen Inglis 'Learning You By Heart'

The Palolo native (who released new album last June) is gearing up for Fall tour



Evan Morgan Jodloman LIFE MUSIC 07 SEP 2015,



Stephen Inglis is a Grammy-nominated **Slack Key** guitarist whose blend of **Hawaiian** and **Americana** influences has made him not only one of the most recognized artists in **Hawaii**, but around the globe. That blend of styles is put forth in full on his latest release 'Learning You By Heart.'

'Blind With Haste' opens the album with a heavy dose of nostalgia -- like **James Taylor** meets **The Eagles**. There's an instant calm that sweeps over the listener from the moment the first chords ring out, a genuine, feel-good jam. The solo about midway through adds another layer to the overall experience, putting a relaxed exclamation point on the album's first outing.

As the title track, 'Learning You By Heart' is an excellent blend of **Folk** and **Hawaiian** influences -- a laid-back track that induces a relaxed state almost instantly. **Inglis** has an equally easy delivery that pulls the listener in and blends

seamlessly with his relaxed rhythms.

Above all, **Inglis** is an all-around talent. Whether he's channeling the **Blues** on 'Lay Your Dagger Down' pulling back with the ballad-esque **Country** leanings of 'Our Younger Days,' or going full

Acoustic on 'Find Your Way Back Home,' **Inglis** switches gears without missing a lick or beat. **Inglis** is a genre-bending, genre-blending chameleon, and, the fluidity and ease with which he navigates such a wide spectrum of influences is truly exceptional.