

# On the way up: Reeve winning Atlanta crowds



Tyler Reeve

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Keep your ear on Tyler Reeve. The Florida State University alumnus and up-and-coming singer-songwriter is busy paying

his dues along the road to the big time. A veteran at age 24 of travel between venues and cities, Reeve already has won over audiences from Tallahassee to Key West with his easygoing charisma and natural stage presence. However, it's his

brand of acoustic rock that keeps them coming back for more.

On the cusp of recording his first studio-produced album, "Too Many Songs About Women," and with his Sept. 15 stage debut at Atlanta's famed Fox Theatre under his belt, Reeve (B.S. '04, International Affairs) has been honing his craft over the past four years with as many as 20 hours of stage time every week. Now, his hard work is beginning to pay off.

"If someone comes and hears me play, I'm at a point where there is no question it's what I do for a living," said Reeve, who is based in Atlanta and can be seen regularly at Tin Lizzy's, a laid-back bar, popular among local FSU alumni.

"As a stage musician, one of my strongest points is the amount of gigs I've played in Tallahassee and at Irish Kevin's (in Key West). Most people do their practicing at home. I basically have done all of my practicing on stage."

Reeve describes his sound as a cross between Maroon Five and Gavin DeGraw, and he intends for his forthcoming album to be a showcase of his 12 best original songs.

"When I was selecting the tracks, I only had a couple of songs that weren't about women. I thought, 'I have too many songs

about women!' Then, it hit me. I said, 'That's it, I'm going to use all the songs about women and that's what I'm going to call it!'"

Recalling his early days as a musician in Tallahassee — his "college job" — Reeve said he first considered pursuing music as a career after realizing he had developed a bona-fide fan base.

"During my junior year at FSU, I was playing very regularly and starting to get to where people knew me and were coming out to see me. One day, I played a bar where no one went — ever. They hired me for one night. We put out a few flyers, and all these people came. I thought, 'Wow, this is really cool that so many people showed up, just for me.'"

Reeve's ability to connect with audiences comes down to his own passion for music and performing.

"I'm not there to sell them records. I'm there to have a good time, just like they are."

He also has perfected gauging what the crowd wants, and adjusts his show accordingly. Switching between his own 80-song catalog and a mix of covers that run from country to classic rock, his performances can be laid back or "in your face."

A resident of Atlanta since July, Reeve has been pleased to find

larger venues and a world of potential new fans who are responding as favorably to his music as others have.

"The best thing about it are the new crowds. I recently played a bar up here. They were really into (my show). In Tallahassee, many people have seen it, but they're not there staring at my guitar (for the first time). These people did. It made me so excited."

Despite his growing Atlanta popularity, which is fueled by a weekly schedule of Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday night gigs, Reeve is determined not to forget his loyal Tallahassee fan base. He is booked to play at A.J.'s Sports Bar on Friday nights through the end of the year.

In preparing for the next phase of his career — accepting a record contract and touring as an opening act — Reeve plans to establish a solid Atlanta fan base and simply do what he loves most — perform his music. And if that means more travel between venues and cities, he is ready.

"I like the grind. It's worth it. I'll be worn out on three hours of sleep, ready to pass out as I walk, but the second I get on stage, I'm completely fine."

To learn more, visit [tylerreeve.com](http://tylerreeve.com).