

The Weekend Classic: More Alive

The Weekend Classic's newest venture, a three-song EP notably produced by Chad Gilbert of New Found Glory and Ryan Key of Yellowcard, has warranted plenty of talk due to its origins, but this talk isn't without rationale. Madison, Indiana's own latest and greatest made a name for themselves by scoring the Ernie Ball PLAY Warped 2016 grand prize, the product of which was released to the world on June 2nd and has since gained plenty of recognition, even grabbing the attention of Alternative Press in a recent feature. As well as releasing their much-anticipated EP, *More Alive*, the Weekend Classic has been busy this summer with a thirty-three day run alongside St. Louis locals, *Welcome Home*, across the West Coast and Midwest.

A product of the minds of the four-piece self proclaimed "Midwest rock band", the Weekend Classic, and the production talents of Chad Gilbert, *More Alive* intermixes alternative rock and pop punk influences to give us an album created to be blasted through car speakers. Since the September 2016 release titled *When You Had Nothing*, it's obvious how much the band's sound has grown, building on a foundation that began with their powerfully honest single, *Shattered Glass*, to develop an interestingly diverse character for their newest EP. Though energy charged and moderately upbeat, there's no mistaking the hints of nostalgia intermingled with the captivating lyrics and classic alt-rock riffs; *More Alive* practically aches to be recognized as marginally bittersweet without sacrificing the qualities that make it both compelling and relatable. The second song on the EP, the title track of the record, embodies the soul of the band's newest release, blending lyrically heavy verses with a chorus that holds the potential to be the next punk anthem.

Despite the unconventional route leading up to the development and eventual release of *More Alive*, members Chris Webster, Ryan Wells, Christian Richards, and Matt White retain the raw sincerity of their lyrics; in fact, the band's latest work seems more rooted than ever in the sense of openness that can only be attributed to their sheer sense of dedication. In their own words, the band has carried their "self-defeating honesty" with them in their music as they continue to gain recognition, backing it with stronger vocals and a solidified sound. Though the band draws from an expansive directory of influences, they retain their diversity and ability to lend individuality to their music, establishing themselves as exploratory but ultimately giving life to a new expressivity that they, thus far, wear well. One can only guess where they'll aim next, but we look forward to hearing more great things from them in the future!

You can listen to *More Alive* on Spotify

(<https://open.spotify.com/album/4cPVD3QQ6tPRzerxUcxFTh>), BandCamp

(<https://theweekendclassic.bandcamp.com/>) or iTunes (<https://itunes.apple.com/album/id1232411845>)