

NEWS

# Raul Midón Celebrates Relaxation With 'I Love the Afternoon': Premiere

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Sam Prather  
Raul Midón

Singer-songwriter-guitar ace Raul Midón has crooned and strummed in a variety of styles over the years, working with an eclectic roster of artists that includes Shakira, Christina Aguilera and Johnny Mathis, but his 2017 album *Bad Ass and Blind* found him delivering what he told Billboard at the time was his "deep jazz" album. The result earned him his first Grammy nod, for best jazz vocal album, a feat he'd repeat the next year with *If You Really Want*.

Now, Midón is gearing up for the March 13 release of new album *The Mirror*, previewing it [with new single](#) "I Love the Afternoon," an airy, affable number that shows off his strong, silky vocals over a pleasant, tropical-flavored jazz shuffle. You could easily imagine it playing on a turntable during a cocktail party in the '50s, and Midón sells the mood admirably, telling Billboard "it's a whimsical song about the virtue of idleness."

His hands are hardly idle here, however, running over his acoustic guitar with an effortless dexterity while he sings about "old-time tunes" and "promises made in June."

*The Mirror*, which Midón himself produced, includes vibraphonist Joe Locke and pianist Gerald Clayton. It also features two tracks that veer into spoken word territory. "It's important that I surprise myself and my listeners," he says. "Take the spoken-word pieces, for instance. I grew up listening to artists who were rappers before rap, like Gil Scott-Heron, so I've always wanted to take that sort of approach to something. I think hearing me speak the words over the music makes it especially personal -- which is particularly true with 'If I Could See,' where I'm talking about something very intimate for me."

Midón is slated to perform at SXSW (which takes place from March 13-22 this year) in addition to a slew of [North American and overseas dates](#).