

NELA Music Scene

GRAYSON MAY - FLYING HEART BREWING & PUB

March 24, 2024, West Monroe, LA

As the evening sun dipped below the horizon, its golden rays bathed the floodwall in a warm glow, as artists [Grayson May](#) took the stage. With his guitar in hand and a cowboy spirit, Grayson's music filled the air, painting the venue in hues of amber reminiscent of an Amarillo sky. It was more than mere entertainment. He had the crowd singing and dancing within two songs. His performance evoked cheers and accolades throughout his two sets. It was a fun night in [Downtown West Monroe](#).

I have been hearing about Grayson's work and the local musicians working with him on his studio recordings. Stage presence and charisma are powerful tools in anybody's performance. Grayson has mastered both of these qualities. I noticed some qualities about his playing, vocals and song writing I thought were worth talking about. Grayson's interpretation of "Dead or Alive," by Bon Jovi was masterful, garnering an emotional response from the crowd throughout the song. We all sang along. Not everyone can pull this song off. Richie Sambora's guitar parts were not even remotely missed. A lot of work went into putting this song together for a solo performance. His vocal work seemed effortless, something noticeable throughout the evening. Between Grayson's sets, Christopher Martinez guitarist for [Message From Mercury](#) and I talked about solo performances and people like the late Eddie Van Halen that carried multiple parts during live performances. Christopher is an accomplished guitarist. Like other professionals he works the parts out for live shows.

Grayson played an original composition called "Somebody Died for You." This was a moving song inspired by his grandfather, a war veteran. The audience loved it. This song really showcased his writing talent. Toward the end of the song, I believe he made a key change that was really amazing. The next time I get a chance to talk with Grayson I will ask him exactly what he did. Again, his vocal work seemed effortless.

Some of my other musical highlights included "Should have been a Cowboy," by Toby Keith, "White Lightning," by George Jones, "Something Like That," by Tim McGraw, "Tulsa Time," by Don Williams, "Friends in Low Place," by Garth Brooks and "Looking for Love," by Johnny Lee. If you need live music for a party or event, book Grayson May. It was good to see my good friends [Betty Ingram Smith](#), [Rita Saxon](#) and [Christopher Martinez](#).

Thank you, [Jay Walk](#) and the Flying Heart team for your continued commitment to local artists and the community.

Note: The Sunday Beer Garden Concert Series at Flying Heart is a popular event that takes place in Downtown West Monroe each Sunday evening. It offers a platform for talented artists like Grayson May to showcase their music in a unique and engaging setting.

Tom M.