Alternative rock singer-songwriter Willy Cobb’s new music, produced and co-written with country singer Brent Cobb and The Cadillac Three leader Jaren Johnston, serves as a dynamic crash course in his blend of down-home pride and punk attitude. As a kid riding in his family’s truck, his dad would throw on Hank Williams, while his mom favored Nirvana. Now a rising talent in Nashville, the singer and guitarist still channels his upbringing in his lyrics, which pay homage to small-town misbehavior and malaise.

Not caring what people think is a crucial aspect of Cobb’s view of himself and his music. While he credits other like-minded Southern artists who flout easy genre labels, Cobb considers himself to be on a unique mission to connect with fans who might feel like outsiders in their communities. “There’s a whole minority of kids in the South that feel like me—that were weird and alternative in high school,” Cobb explains. “I want them to see that you don’t have to be country to be from Georgia.”