Home means many different things.

For as much as it represents a physical place, it really embodies our personal roots, defining who we become and, ultimately, what we do. No matter how far away we get from where we came, we can always return. Trey Songz does just that on his eighth full-length album, the aptly titled *Back Home* [Atlantic Records]. It’s been a long time since he left Petersburg, VA on the path to R&B superstardom, but the multiplatinum three-time GRAMMY® Award-nominated icon always carries it with him.

As such, he once again tightly embraces the music that inspired him to walk this path in the first place.

“I’ve been trying to get back home for a very long time,” he states. “The funny thing about life and evolution is it’s never-ending. I’ve realized it’s my choice and my decision, so I’m going back home to true R&B. These songs reflect the soundtrack of where I am physically and mentally. Every album is an opportunity to wear my heart on my sleeve. That’s what I’m doing.”

It’s also what he’s always done…

Trey has affirmed himself as the 21st century’s preeminent purveyor of timeless R&B. Beginning with his Atlantic Records debut *I Gotta Make It* in 2005, the singer, actor, entrepreneur, and performer has built an essential discography highlighted by smashes such as “Say Aah” [feat. Fabolous], “I Invented Sex” [feat. Drake], “Slow Motion,” “Bottoms Up” [feat. Nicki Minaj], “Nobody Else But You,” and many more. Beyond earning just shy of 8 billion global streams and sales combined and garnering three GRAMMY® Award nominations to date, he has notched 16-plus RIAA Certified platinum and gold singles and albums. Plus, he has logged two consecutive #1 debuts on the *Billboard*Top 200 with the RIAA gold-certified *Chapter V* in 2012 and RIAA platinum-certified *TRIGGA*in 2014. Most recently, 2017’s RIAA gold-certified *Tremaine* captured #3 on the Top 200.

As he turned the page on his next musical chapter, life changed forever when he welcomed his son Noah into the world in 2019.

“Me, the guy who *‘Invented Sex*,*’* a father?” he laughs. “I’m still a man, but being a father is a gift that changed my life.”

In order to bring his latest opus to life, he reteamed with longtime collaborator Troy Taylor [Boyz II Men, Mary J. Blige, Brian McKnight] as well as top producers Johntá Austin [Mariah Carey, Aaliyah], Hitmaka [Big Sean, Lil Wayne, Mulatto], Boi-1da [Beyoncé, Drake, Rihanna], and more. He set the stage for the record by introducing its multiple sides. The Hitmaka-helmed nostalgic title track “Back Home” [feat. Summer Walker] catapulted to #7 on *Billboard* Adult R&B Airplay Chart as his biggest R&B radio hit since 2014. On the other end of the spectrum, the powerful and politically charged “2020 Riots: How Many Times” addressed the unrest in society and turbulent tides. As chronicled on tape in the music video, Trey personally took to the streets by hosting his own Black Lives Matter Weekend Event in Petersburg and Richmond, VA to celebrate JuneTeenth 2020. He chose to support both Black Lives Matter and the Community Justice Exchange’s National Bail Fund Network with a portion of the proceeds from “2020 Riots: How Many Times.”

On the other end of the spectrum, guitar curls around his instantly recognizable delivery on “Two Ways” where he depicts the torrential push-and-pull of a relationship on the rocks. Meanwhile, his voice dips in and out of instantly recognizable high register on the fluttering “Circles.” Ty Dolla $ign leans into a bedroom-ready bounce during “On Call,” while “Rain” [feat. Swae Lee] washes over a down-tempo groove with an assurance, *“You know we can make it through the rain*.*”* Then, there’s “Sleepless Nights” [feat. Davido]. Nigerian superstar and Afrobeats ambassador Davido turns up with a sizzling cameo as he locks into a call-and-response with Trey. Everything culminates on “I Know a Love” and “Noah Love.” On the former, he sings to his son, *“I never thought I’d find a love like this. I thought I had it all, but I didn’t*.*”* Meanwhile, Noah delivers his first feature with dad on the latter above sweeping piano.

“Every song is a reflection of a situation or experience I’ve had while making this album,” he says. “For me, home means there no limitations or expectations. I’m just singing my life, and you are listening to my truth.”

That truth immediately resonated with listeners and tastemakers. In addition to acclaim from *UPROXX*, *Complex*, and *Revolt*, *Billboard* summed up the album best, *“The Virginia crooner floats back to his 2005 I Gotta Make It days, and whips up a sweet medley of sturdy deep-cut type tracks.”*

By going *Back Home*, Trey delivers another definitive body of work.

“Home is peace, home is my foundation, and home is my truth,” he leaves off. “I was born to create, and I don’t take my gifts for granted. I hope my fans listen to my music like periods of their lives—the first record you cried to, made love to, or danced to. I just want them to know where I’m at. Trey today is evolving, and the Trey tomorrow is wiser, stronger, and clear on what I want my legacy to be. I’m a father, an activist, a son, a brother, and an ever-evolving Tremaine. I’m still here. I have so much to give and so many reasons to share my world.”