

# BREAKING

## THE ROLLING STONE NEW MUSIC BLOG

---

### [Breaking Artist: Mason Jennings](#)

July 9, 2008 2:53 PM



**Who:** Minnesota folk king Mason Jennings, who gets spiritual and explores where babies come from on his new album *In the Ever*.

**Sounds Like:** Having just signed to Brushfire Records, the easy comparison is Jennings' good friend, current tour mate and Brushfire owner Jack Johnson. But Jennings also draws from the Minnesota rock scene, *Comes a Time*-era Neil Young and his favorite band, Led Zeppelin — all channeled through acoustic guitars. "Whenever I have electric guitars going, my voice just disappears. I'm too mellow," Jennings says of his aspirations to be Robert Plant.

## **Vital Stats:**

- When naming the album, Jennings got some inspiration from his son. "My five-year-old is always going around saying profound things. One day he said to me, 'Dad, do you remember before I was born when I was in the ever?' I thought that was so heavy. There's a lot of spiritual themes on the record, and the title just fit." What does "the ever" look like? "Above space, there's tornadoes. That's what my son always says."
- Jennings spend his childhood in Hawaii and Pittsburgh before settling in Minneapolis. "I dropped out of high school and started traveling around. I came to Minneapolis and felt really at home there. Plus, bands like the Replacements and Hüsker Dü came out of there." Despite a decade living within the Twin Cities' music scene, Jennings has yet to encounter the Gopher State's most famous resident. "I've seen Prince around town a few times," Jennings says, "but I haven't had any run-ins with him yet."
- Jennings has already contributed songs to soundtracks for both *Shrek 2* (even though the song didn't make the actual film) and *I'm Not There* (cover two Bob Dylan songs.) He recorded some music with the Shins' James Mercer for *180 Degrees South*, a documentary about surfing legends the Malloy Brothers' trip to Patagonia, Chile. The soundtrack is due out later this year.

**Hear It Now:** *In the Ever* is out now. Click above for more on Jennings, including a performance from this year's Bonnaroo.

*Daniel Kreps*