

= Homesick (A Day to Remember album) =

Homesick is the third studio album by American rock band A Day to Remember , produced by Chad Gilbert and the band , and released in February 2009 . It was the band 's second album for Victory . The album features material written while the band had been touring , which Andrew Wade helped them demo . Recording took place between October and November 2008 at The Wade Studio , located in Ocala . Featured on the album are guest vocalists Mike Hranica (The Devil Wears Prada) , Vincent Bennett (The Acacia Strain) and Sierra Kusterbeck (VersaEmerge) . Recorded during the album sessions but remaining unreleased is an instrumental called " Money Maker " . Several of the album 's songs appeared on the band 's MySpace profile before the release of the album .

Planned for a mid @-@ February 2009 release by Victory before being moved forward two weeks , the album sold 22 @,@ 000 copies in the first week and charted at number 21 on the U.S. Billboard 200 . It also charted at number 165 in the UK . It was the band 's final album featuring Tom Denney on guitar , who was replaced on tour by Kevin Skaff . Three singles were released from the album : " NJ Legion Iced Tea " in January 2009 , " The Downfall of Us All " in March 2009 , " Have Faith in Me " in August 2009 . Only the third of these charted , at number 40 on the Billboard Alternative Songs chart . A re @-@ release with additional tracks was released in October 2009 . Several of the album tracks are available for Rock Band . In 2014 , two songs from the album , " The Downfall of Us All " and " If It Means a Lot to You " , were certified gold by the RIAA . The album was certified Silver in the UK by the BPI in 2015 , and Gold in the United States the following year .

= = Background and composition = =

A Day to Remember were pressed for a new album by their record label , Victory , in early 2008 ; bassist Joshua Woodard said the band weren 't ready to record a new album at the time . This resulted in a re @-@ release of their previous album , For Those Who Have Heart (2007) , with additional tracks . The songs featured on Homesick were written while the band were on Warped Tour 2008 and on the Easycore Tour with producer Chad Gilbert of New Found Glory . The songs were finished on the latter tour . Gilbert helped to structure the band 's songs and also assisted the band with composing " a few really catchy parts " . The album 's lyrics are similar to their previous efforts , with the band aiming to " keep it as personal and open at the same time " , as vocalist Jeremy McKinnon commented . Speaking of the album 's sound , McKinnon said that the band " wanted to make sure it was heavier and poppier " while at the same time trying " to take it to the next level " .

= = Music and lyrics = =

= = = Tracks 1 ? 6 = = =

In the early hours of one morning , McKinnon was driving to Ocala , Florida when the chorus guitar riff to " The Downfall of Us All " came to him , sometime in September 2008 . Upon arriving at his mom 's house , he got an acoustic guitar and worked the song out , finishing it within 2 days . The song 's lyrics are about pressure when it comes to songwriting and the attempt to make people happy because of it . It was the last song written for the album . " My Life for Hire " was one of the first songs written for the album , but remained unfinished until shortly before recording sessions began . The lyrics refer to the music business and how the band were told that they couldn 't " be the band we wanted to be " , as McKinnon commented . The title " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " was a quote that McKinnon " thought was cool " , from the movie Night at the Museum , while the lyrics are about getting revenge . " NJ Legion Iced Tea " refers to how someone would feel watching gigs . The title for " Mr. Highway 's Thinking About the End " also comes from a movie , The Good Son , while the lyrics are about people attempting to undermine your achievements . " Have Faith in Me " is about trusting other people , and looking after them .

== Tracks 7 ? 12 ==

" Welcome to the Family " features a recording of Andrew Wade 's heart beat towards the end of the track . The title track , " Homesick " , was written as one piece , before being split into two songs , which the band thought didn 't work well and changed it back to one song . McKinnon said he was " proud " of the track : " My parents were really happy when they first heard it : My dad is always worried about me and my mom really did ask me to write her some soft songs . I finally did . " " Holdin ' It Down for the Underground " came about after McKinnon lost two family members and writing the song helped him relieve the pain .

" You Already Know What You Are " is about negative people and music critics , and doing whatever you want no matter what others say . The song 's title was a saying from a friend of the band . The title for " Another Song About the Weekend " is a reference to Secret Lives of the Freemasons 's album Weekend Warriors (2008) , while the lyrics are about " a sick cycle " of " life on the road [...] Every time you 're gone , you miss home and when you get home , you miss the road " . " If It Means a Lot to You " had been written over the course of a year , and McKinnon said he wrote it about himself . McKinnon described the song as a " great way to end " the album , describing it as one of their " biggest songs . "

== Recording ==

In an August 2008 interview with AbsolutePunk , McKinnon said the band were planning to start recording once the tour with New Found Glory had finished , " So Oct & Nov. " McKinnon said that having Wade , who had previously worked on the band 's other albums , on production duties , was a way for the album to have " A Day To Remember @-@ type feel " . Wade also recorded the band 's demos for the album , in the back of a bus . The album itself was recorded at Wade 's The Wade Studio , in Ocala , Florida , after the Easycore Tour had finished . Gilbert was touring with New Found Glory in Europe at the time , but with video conferencing he was able to offer input about the record . In September 2008 , a demo appeared on the band 's MySpace page , entitled " Wax Larry " . Documenting the recording process , the band released several webisodes on YouTube , under the name The Real ADTR : Homesick in Ocala , which had been called a spoof of The Real World . The webisodes were aided by director Drew Russ , as guitarist Neil Westfall states : " When he [Drew Russ] was telling us in the beginning that he was getting into video stuff , and we were like ' Well that 's kinda crazy ' cause we need a video guy to do these webisodes for us ' . And as we started talking he really kinda got our sense of humor " . While in the middle of recording Homesick , A Day to Remember released Old Record .

Homesick was produced by Gilbert , and was mixed by Adam Dutkiewicz of Killswitch Engage , with mixing taking place in December 2008 , at Zing Studios . Mastering took place at West West Side Studios , by Alan Douches . The album features three guesting vocalists : Mike Hranica of The Devil Wears Prada on " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " , Vincent Bennett of The Acacia Strain on " Welcome to the Family " , and Sierra Kusterbeck of VersaEmerge on " If It Means a Lot to You " . The latter featured harmonica played by Dave Guynn . One of the tracks written for Homesick was held over for What Separates Me from You (2010) . An instrumental entitled " Money Maker " was also recorded during the sessions , but McKinnon had difficulties with it . He later explained : " when it came down to writing vocal parts [...] I just couldn 't get that song done . [...] I think it was the best music for the whole record . The music was just so catchy on its own [...] so we said we will just set this aside for next time around . "

== Release and promotion ==

== Initial releases and line @-@ up changes ==

In 2008 , both Homesick and the re @-@ release of the band 's first album , as Old Record , were announced , with a further announcement claiming Homesick 's release as February 17 , 2009 . After being moved up the schedule , the album 's release date became February 3 for the U.S. In January 6 , 2009 , the track list of the album was revealed . In mid @-@ January , the song " Welcome to the Family " was put on the band 's Myspace profile , with " The Downfall of Us All " being added on 26 January . The following day , the song " NJ Legion Iced Tea " was released as the first single . Homesick was released on February 3 in the U.S. The cover art , designed by Dan Mumford based on an idea by McKinnon , is an interpretation of different paths in life , and how one road can change a person 's life . The second single was " The Downfall of Us All " and the music video was released on March 3 . " The Downfall of Us All " impacted radio on May 26 . For tours in promotion of Homesick , the band had a line @-@ up change adding Four Letter Lie guitarist Kevin Skaff and dropping Tom Denney , the latter of whom wanted to settle down , but was still working with the band behind the scenes .

The band called " The Downfall of Us All " the " most fun " track from Homesick to play live . A live video of the band performing " Mr. Highway 's Thinking About the End " was included in an episode of Victory 's VicTorV . A video of the band performing " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " , which was filmed on the Warped Tour , was added to the band 's MySpace profile on October 16 , 2009 . It was included as a DVD trailer on their profile , which people mistook as the song 's actual music video . " Have Faith in Me " was then announced as a single on September 25 , 2009 . In December , the band released a Christmas song , " Right Where You Want Me to Be " , on their MySpace account .

= = = Music videos and live performances = = =

Also in December , the music video for " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " was filmed , directed by Dan Dobi . In early March 2010 the band announced via their Twitter account that the video was set for release , with a date of March 16 . This was further confirmed a few days later , with some fans being able to view it before its release . A delay in releasing it occurred as the band were trying to negotiate with MTV , as Westfall commented : " I think it 's more important to have them [MTV] on board , instead of just putting it on , like , YouTube . " The video had its television premiere on MTV on March 16 . The music video was based on an idea from a friend Kyle Crawford , as McKinnon said : " He was like , ' Hey , you should totally make a video where you guys are playing kickball and you play a bunch of kids and just kick the s * * * out of them ? " I was like , " That is a great idea . Let 's look into it . ' " Asked why it was the band 's next music video , Westfall said " it stands out compared to the other songs " as " it 's a harder song . "

The band had performed acoustic versions of both " Homesick " and " Have Faith in Me " before a show in early April , for 98 Rock , and again , for KROQ , a few months later . The band also played " Have Faith in Me " acoustically for MTV , which was posted online mid @-@ April . At the beginning of May 2010 , the band asked fans to name their next tour , which was shortly afterwards named as Toursick . The band started the first of The AP Sessions for Alternative Press on June 30 , performing " Homesick " and " Have Faith in Me " . The music video for " Have Faith in Me " , directed by Mark Staubach , was released on July 14 , receiving its world premiere on MTV . The song was also released as a single .

= = Further releases and song appearances = =

A re @-@ issue of Homesick was announced on September 13 , 2009 , and released on October 27 , with the original track listing intact , but adding acoustic versions of " Homesick " and " Another Song About the Weekend " , and 9 live tracks from a performance in Switzerland , which was filmed during their European tour . The acoustic tracks were recorded at The Wade Studio from September 10 to September 21 . Westfall said the band wasn 't going to re @-@ issue the album " unless it 's worth the fans ' while . " The album , along with For Those Who Have Heart and Attack of the Killer B @-@ Sides (2010) , had a reissue on vinyl , in 2011 . Three songs have featured on various

artist compilations : the acoustic version of " Homesick " was released on the Victory Records Fall Sampler 2010 , " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What are You Made Of ? " on SideOneDummy 's Warped Tour 2009 Tour Compilation , and " The Downfall of Us All " on Modern Rock Radio 's Promo Only : Modern Rock Radio (July 2009) and 3Wise 's Soundwave 2012 . " NJ Legion Iced Tea " is available as downloadable content for Guitar Hero World Tour . The songs " The Downfall of Us All " , " Have Faith in Me " , " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " and " If It Means a Lot to You " are available as downloadable content for Rock Band . " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " had been added at the request of the band 's fans . Another vinyl reissue was announced on July 30 , 2013 , and released on August 6 , 2013 .

= = Reception = =

The album charted at number 21 on the Billboard 200 , number 1 on Top Independent Albums , number 2 on Hard Rock Albums , number 21 on Digital Albums , and number 5 on the Alternative Albums charts . It sold 22 @, @ 000 copies within its first week and reached 80 @, @ 000 copies by June 2010 . The album charted at number 165 in the UK . " Have Faith in Me " charted at number 40 on the Billboard Modern Rock Tracks chart . Homesick was voted by fans as number 1 on Kill Your Stereo 's Album of the Year 2009 . Rock Sound , in 2012 , ranked the album at number 82 on their list of the greatest 101 albums of the past 15 years . In February 2014 , " The Downfall of Us All " was certified gold , and in September , " If It Means a Lot to You " was certified . In July 2015 , the album was certified silver in the UK , after selling 60 @, @ 000 copies in the UK . In March 2016 , Homesick was certified gold in the U.S.

Thomas Nassiff of AbsolutePunk called Homesick " a record that is honest and entertaining " , despite how " repetitive " and " dense it may be " . Nassiff went on to say that the album wouldn 't appeal to the public , but it would be " welcomed with open arms " by the band 's fans . When referring to the album 's lyrics , Nassiff called the album " a concept one " , with a theme of " the glory of being a musician " , which encompasses having to be away from home for a period of time . " The Downfall of Us All " , as Nassiff put it , " gets the listener psyched for the rest of the album " . Rock on Request reviewer Anthony Avina furthered this comment by naming the songs " Welcome to the Family " and the title track as examples of the band showing off their " wide range of talent while producing a harmonious album " that the band 's fans " will instantly fall in love with " . Avina noted the album had " a unique sound that has elements " from other bands such as Chiodos . Petteri Pertola , for Rockfreaks.net , " appreciate [s] the way these guys fuse metalcore and pop punk seamlessly together " , adding that " many songs are plagued by an overtly formulaic approach , but when it works , [...] Homesick is one of the catchiest listens you 'll experience this year . " Punknews.org reviewer Elliot said the album had an " undeniable quality " , that is " melodic competence " . He viewed the a capella intro to " The Downfall of Us All " as being " a little gimmicky " , while " Have Faith in Me " was called a tribute to Blink @-@ 182 . Despite noting that three of the songs " stray " from a format that the other songs on the album share , he referred to them as being " not very impressive " .

Allmusic reviewer James Christopher Monger said " The Downfall of Us All " would gain an extra " life in countless montages on MTV reality shows and 30 @-@ second cola commercials " . Monger said that the album consisted " of perfectly executed and fairly standard clean vocal post @-@ hardcore emo @-@ pop " which shows the " limitations of the genre " . Monger called the backing vocals " exciting at first " , but felt that they " eventually dissolve into the waves of distortion mid @-@ album " , becoming an " audio equivalent of an energy drink crash " . The final track , " If It Means a Lot to You " , as Monger noted , was different from the preceding tracks , as they were " deafening , ultimately forgettable , over @-@ compressed slabs of twentysomething angst " . Sputnikmusic 's John Hanson said the album was an " incredibly derivative and plodding record " that was filled with " laughable moments " . He also noted the band " haven 't seemed to progress that basic combination of ideas " in combining pop @-@ punk and metalcore , and that the intro to " The Downfall of Us All " is " just one example of embarrassing decisions " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written by A Day to Remember . All lyrics written by Jeremy McKinnon , except " Have Faith in Me " by McKinnon and Jason Lancaster .
Other editions

= = Personnel = =

Personnel per Special Edition booklet .

= = Chart positions and certifications = =