

When I caught this Beaumont based, young country gun at the Roadhouse, he ruled. Kaiser has a rich, tuneful voice and a very good band supporting him. He did quality original country and covers of country and blues standards. He rocked the house with, "Best Times," an original from Spurlock Road, his 1st CD (with brother David Lee Kaiser.) From Kaiser's recently released solo CD, I'm Gone (see review below,) highlights included the "One Horse Town," "I'm Gone" and "Show Me How To Feel." Cover highlights were "Can't You See," "Red House," and a medley of "T For Texas" and "Bluesman." Guitarist Darren McGill took boss rides on the latter two songs. Bravo! Bravo! FYI: McGill is the son of Texas virtuoso guitarist Scott McGill. Other band members are bassist Greg Valdez and drummer Ryan Carroll.

I'M GONE: Moon Tower Records. June 2005. This is up and coming Texas country singer Jimmy Kaiser's debut CD as a solo artist. Of the twelve tracks, Kaiser wrote or co-wrote nine. Texas artists Hayes Carll, Billy O'Rourke and Troy Johnson penned three. Total time is just over 45 minutes. Production and sound quality are first-rate. Musicianship is outstanding. Guest players include such notables as David Lee Garza, Big John Mills, Denny Mathis and Billy O'Rourke. The songs are classic Texas country with bluegrass, alternative rock and country influences. But the real strength of this album is Kaiser's vocals. He has a rich, melodic voice with good timbre and tone. He drives hard on the rockers and presents the tearjerkers oh-so-soulfully. Penned by Kaiser, "One Horse Town" is a bittersweet story-song of growing up in a little town, done in medium-tempo. Also penned by Kaiser, the title track is about leaving home for the bright lights and hitting bottom before you learn that "You gotta play the cards that are dealt you." "Highway," co-written by Kaiser, talks about how life on the highway takes its toll, but "Oh, I did it my way." Written by Hayes Carll, "Highway 87," is a hard driving rocker about a young man gone way over the line. Kaiser's "The Best Days Are Gone" is a happy-go-lucky, traditional honky-tonk two-stepper. This reviewer's favorite song is Kaiser's "Show Me How To Feel," a country blues song if ever there was one. I can almost see the ghost of Hank Williams in the back seat of his Cadillac that fateful night. Highest recommendation.

Jim Shortt  
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