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Modern Jazz Rising Star Jose James Makes First Texas Appearance In San Antonio

BY JACK MORGAN

Arts & Culture

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A musician coming to San Antonio this weekend is creating quite a buzz. He's José James, and his sound is not the usual thing. He describes it this way: "Jazz, soul, R&B, singer/songwriter, indie rock, you know. We take you on a musical journey."

The Minneapolis transplant to New York is deep in a tour now, and as it turns out, his San Antonio gig will be his first time to the Lone Star state.

"I've never been to Texas so I'm super excited," James said. "I'm not sure what to expect except great food and I heard a killer audience, so I'm ready."

I asked him what kind of band he was bringing.

"I'm bringing the biggest band I've ever had on the road. It's six people including myself," James said.

Saturday night Arts San Antonio is bringing him to the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre. James' sound is complex and varies quite a bit. But his musical roots run deep, and quite far back.

"Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Miles Davis; those are my heroes because they were unafraid to take risks and try new things," he said. "That's the tradition of jazz. You're always expected to come up with your own tradition, your own sound."

He's clearly done that.

For more on José James visit: www.josejamesmusic.com

For tickets: <http://www.artssa.org/jose-james/>