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Contemporary Folk Artist Eli Conley Tours the US with CD Release “Strong and Tender”

(Berkeley, CA) April 14, 2017 – Native Virginian turned west coast nationally touring singer-songwriter, Eli Conley kicks off a national CD release tour in Brooklyn, NY with his sophomore release “Strong and Tender.”

Conley’s music has been described as “akin to the classic era of the singer-songwriter genre – think Jackson Browne, early Elton John, Stephen Stills, and the more recent work of Melissa Etheridge” (Tom Semioli, *minor7th.com*). As a contemporary folk artist, Conley combines the themes of both traditional and socio-political folk with issues and trends of today.

His style “connects the gap between city- and country-boy by combining contemporary and traditional themes” according to Wendy Levy of Windham Co. Vermont’s *The Commons*, also comparing his tunes to Elton John, “think early Elton John---especially ‘Tumbleweed Connection.’”

“Sometimes when people hear one song of mine, they say, ‘You’re a country singer or a jazz singer,” he comments, “but you have to hear it as a whole. I’m working in so many styles.” He also hosts Queer Country West Coast, a regular series featuring LGBTQ country artists in the Bay Area.

Conley pulls no punches with the truth. ‘What I’m Worth’ addresses the transgender facet of his life directly and fearlessly: “I’ve got a name, it’s not the one they gave at birth...don’t try to tell me what I’m worth...I am the man that I was meant to be. I think it’s time that you caught up to me. I won’t change myself, because you dislike what you see.”

The record follows both traditional and contemporary folk tradition, telling rich stories ranging from the highs and lows of love to political themes. The title track ‘Strong and Tender’ urges the listener to “love yourself strong & tender, let the people that you love hold tight to you” during times of disappointment and misunderstanding. Another track, ‘Strong’ begins, “I dressed myself in black today, without thinking why... too many people who I love... are watching people they love die,” a tribute to the Black Lives Matter movement. ‘Lucky Star’ is a bittersweet story about a new love.

Since releasing his debut album ‘At the Seams’ in 2013, Conley has been featured in *The Huffington Post* and *The Advocate*. He has opened for Grammy winner Kimya Dawson and The Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band.

Tour Dates

Thurs Apr 27:	Brooklyn, NY	Branded Saloon with The Paisley Fields
Fri Apr 28:	Philadelphia, PA	Atonement Lutheran Church with Silverton
Sat Apr 29:	Washington D.C.	House Concert with A.J. Head
Sun Apr 30:	Richmond, VA	The Camel with Tyler Hughes & Sam Gleaves
Thurs May 4:	Wilmington, NC	Fermental Beer & Wine
Sat May 6:	Winston-Salem, NC	Benefit Concert for North Star LGBTQ Center at ReNewal Fellowship
Sun May 7:	New Canton, VA	House Concert
Tues May 9:	Abingdon, VA	Wolf Hills Brewing Company - Open Mic Feature
Thurs May 11:	Berea, KY	Spotlight Playhouse with Sam Gleaves
Fri May 12:	Lewis Center, OH	Caribbean Jerks with Sarah Cooperider
Sat May 13:	Pittsburgh, PA	The Glitter Box Theater with Swampwalk

For more information, promo requests, or to set up an interview, please contact Donna Mavity at donnasamericana@gmail.com or 229-224-0124.