

Acadiana-native pianist returns to perform

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Each year, pianist/vocalist Fabian Thibodeaux makes two trips back to the Lafayette — on Christmas and on Mother's Day.

A New York transplant, Thibodeaux has released more than a handful of vocal and solo piano albums under the moniker Isadar.

It just so happens this year, he'll return a little ahead of schedule, before Mother's Day. Tonight, he'll be performing at the Grand Opera of The South in Crowley.

This time around, he also has a new album in tow, titled "Reconstruction," that was produced by Grammy winner Will Ackerman.

Ackerman discovered the musician after seeing Thibodeaux's YouTube page, a marketing tool that has helped the pianist since his 2008 album, "The Omega Point."

"In the past, music videos were expensive," Thibodeaux said. "With YouTube, I could have a worldwide audience. My piano videos is how Ackerman found me, and he got in touch with me and wanted to produce my album."

Though the bond was formed, Thibodeaux, a restless musician with more than 10 albums under his belt already, was wrapping up work on a new album.

Thibodeaux sent his entire back catalog to Ackerman, allowing the producer to pick the songs for the new album. The

duo revisited and rerecorded the songs, revealing big and subtle changes to Thibodeaux's repertoire.

"It just changes," he said. "Over the years, it naturally evolves and turns into something else. I can't go back and play a song the way I did it in 1990. This album is more or less a new capturing of how I would perform the pieces now."

For Thibodeaux, it's all about the passion.

In New York, he's found that everyone is passionate, just like those in southern Louisiana, and unlike the people in Los Angeles.

"I realized it's not everywhere in the world where you have passionate people," he said.

He wants to carry that pas-



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sion over to his music.

"The passion of the composing work is what drives me to realize it," he said.