

**TIM DILLINGER:** Icons Pen Media  
**LOVE IS ON MY MIND**

The Florida-born soulmeister, Tim Dillinger, has been in the UK recently on live chores at the Jazz Cafe. Judging from the unimpeachable quality of his material and ear-catching performances on this scintillating debut album, seeing the 28-year-old singer/songwriter in concert should have an eminently rewarding experience. The album begins with a passionate, gospel-infused intro entitled "You Know I Love You," where Dillinger's layered, Marvin-like melismatic vocals are supported by churchy piano and sanctified organ licks. What follows is a polished modern soul offering that provides a much-needed antidote to the cloned grooves and lazy samples that dominate contemporary R&B. The killer cut is the mid-tempo "Can't Help But Say," where Dillinger's soulful lead is counter-pointed by lush backing vocals on a sweetly soulful bridge passage that leads to a chorus that stays locked in the grey matter long after the song is over. Also noteworthy is "In Your Arms," which after an atmospheric introduction provided by a flurry of Spanish guitar notes and mournful synth chords morphs into a gorgeous nocturnal ballad. Other highlights include the smoochy "Ti The 6 Is 9," the passionate "Promise To Stay" and the infectious, warmly harmonised "Just Doesn't Matter" with jazz-infused acoustic guitar riding a laid back groove. Impeccably produced by Dale Babb, "Love Is On My Mind" proves an impressive debut that should greatly appeal to soul connoisseurs. (CW)

