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Andy Grammer opens the Wednesday Nite Live music series at Stamford's Columbus Park.

Andy Grammer: Kicking off Wednesday Nite Live concert series ahead of new disc, tour

By Linda Tuccio-Koonz

Things are popping for pop star Andy Grammer. Not only does he have a new hit single, "Don't Give Up On Me," from his soon-to-be released fourth studio album, he's also set to embark on a North American tour in September.

But first things first. Grammer will kick off Stamford's Wednesday Nite Live series with an outdoor show July 10. Fans will get to hear a mix of hits, such as "Keep Your Head Up" and "Honey I'm Good," plus songs from his new album, "Naive," which drops July 26.

Grammer continues to share his message that yes, life can be dark, but stay positive anyway, on his new album. Fans love it. "Don't Give Up On Me" went to No. 1 on the iTunes Pop Chart and has crossed over 60 million total streams.

Not to mention the song is in the new romantic drama, "Five Feet Apart." The movie is about teens who meet in a hospital and fall in love, but must avoid close contact because they're both ill. Grammer's emotional lyrics include, "Even when nobody else believes, I'm not going down that easily, so don't give

Columbus Park, Main Street at West Park Place, Stamford. Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m. \$20 at gate, cash only, 12 and under free with paid adult. All ages welcome. Bring chairs and coolers, but no glass. Check here for further details. Upcoming performers include Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes on July 17, War on July 24, Chubby Checker on July 31, and Jon Secada on Aug. 7. 203-348-5285, www.stamford-downtown.com

up on me."

Grammer acknowledges it's hard to stay positive when so much around us is negative, but says focusing on what's good feels way more rebellious and heroic than the alternative. When we asked how he keeps his optimism, he mentioned Margaret Mead's quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

The married singer-songwriter, whose daughter turns 2 this summer, shared more via email:

Q: Where are you now and

are you doing anything special today?

A: Today I am at a Starbucks in Colorado, just landed here from a show in Vegas last night. About to play a small show for radio winners. It's a wild ride right now.

Q: What can fans expect when you kick off the Wednesday night music series in Stamford?

A: Me and my band love to throw a party. It's an unapologetic blast of optimism. I hope to leave the crowd happy to be alive.

Q: Can you talk about the inspiration behind your haunting new song, "My Own

Hero," and were you really sitting in a room with fire around you for the video, or was that added through special effects?

A: "My Own Hero" is a song about perseverance and believing in yourself. We all have seasons where we have to believe in ourselves when no one else will, and yes the fire was real. It was freaking hot.

Q: What can you share about the story behind your new tune, "She'd Say"?

A: This is a really sweet song I wrote for my daughter about what my mother would say to her. My mother passed away 10 years ago but it's such a sweet idea to speak for her to my little girl. It makes it all the more special because I got to record it with the South African male choir Lady-smith Black Mambazo.

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