"I feel like this is a calling, says Brian McComas, just like it would be for a preacher or a race car driver or a doctor. For me, making music is like breathing. nBrian's life has been filled with moments that bear out that sentiment, with perhaps none so pivotal as the one that took place outside an outdoor amphitheater in Branson, Missouri, when he was 16. He was a hungry songwriter wannabe standing outside a chain-link fence near legendary songwriter Paul Overstreet's tour bus. Raised on a variety of country and pop music, Brian had gradually become a passionate fan of Overstreet's uplifting beautifully crafted, stone country songs. Now he wanted to get one of his own simple demos into the master's hand. nHe came over to the fence, says Brian, and I said, 'Hey, I love what you do. Is there any way if I sent you something that you would listen to it?' Overstreet gave him the name of his publishing company, and Brian sent a tape. They actually called me back, says Brian, still delighted with the memory. They said, 'The songs aren't there yet, but we'll keep accepting your material--and we don't normally do that.' I was thrilled to death. I thought, 'If I'm at this point now and I've just been at it a little while, maybe someday I'll get to the point where I can actually craft something that somebody'll listen to and want to sing themselves. The determination and respect for craftsmanship he evidenced at sixteen eventually brought him to that point, turning small-town dreams into a full-fledged artistic vision. Brian's parents have military backgrounds, and they met at the Pentagon, where both were employed. Brian was born in Bethesda, Maryland, but grew up primarily in Harrison, Arkansas, in the heart of the Ozarks. I didn't realize just how beautiful it was until...

Brian McComas

Speech Topics

- Entertainment