[WILD HORSES, "BLURRIED LINES"]

(SINGING) Where are we when it's over?

NINA MOINI: For some musicians, quitting your day job to start a band might sound like a pretty big gamble. But for Jed and Ariana LaPlant of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, it was the beginning of a new life on the road and the start of Wild Horses. The group draws on bluegrass, old-time, and country traditions that run deep in Jed's family.

And now, five years after forming the band, they're releasing a new album tomorrow called*The In Between.* We're getting a sneak peek of some of those songs right now. And Jed Laplant joins us. Welcome to the program, Jed.

JED LAPLANT: Yeah, thanks for having me.

NINA MOINI: Huge congratulations on this. We just heard a moment ago part of one of your songs called "Blurried Lines." Will you tell us a little bit behind that song to start?

JED LAPLANT: Yeah, that kind of came in the thick of writing for this record and in the last few years of touring and, I think, paints the picture of part of what life has felt like the last two years. It's been amazing getting out to tour and getting to see some new parts of the country and making a go at this. But then also, there's been many times the last few years you wonder if we've run out of road or if we've pushed it as far as we could. And so I think this song kind of came from one of those late-night drives headed back north wondering how we're going to make it work, wondering what's next.

NINA MOINI: Yeah, we talked a little bit at the top there, I mentioned that you and your wife, you made a big life change, and you decided to go all in on the dream. And whatever gives you the faith to keep going in that is an inspiration, it sounds like, that drives a lot of what you do. And I wonder if that also drove much of the album, *The In Between.* Is that more of what you're talking about?

JED LAPLANT: Yeah, I mean, it definitely-- yeah it takes a lot to keep this going, I think. We're grateful. It is a gift. It's a dream to do this for a living. And it's also the hardest job I've ever had. And yeah, there's something to living both of those realities at the same time that I think still excites me and still excites us. But it's definitely both. We're grateful, and we're wore out, but still well worth it. It's like we got home last night from a three-week tour out East. And it's like we're-- it was a great run. It's good to be home, but it was good to be out doing it. And so I mean, we're very much still head in the game. You know?

NINA MOINI: Yeah, and a lot of collaboration going on there since your band formed in 2021. Your wife-- we mentioned Ariana-- covers fiddle, keys, vocals within Wild Horses, and you've put your heads together in all areas of life and have to be creative with one another. How has that been for all of you over the past five years or so?

JED LAPLANT: Yeah, I mean, it's exciting. I mean, it brings its own challenges too, I think, being married and doing it together. It's a unique lifestyle as it is. And then being fellow bandmates as well as husband and wife brings its own challenges. But it's fun. We have our good friend Landon Pahl too playing bass. He's a longtime friend of mine, a songwriter I respect. And I think the three of us in Wild Horse's current iteration is there's a togetherness, I think, of making music, the three of us, that we really tried to lean into on this record.

NINA MOINI: Yeah, when things are making sense and things are going well, I mean, that's great to hear. And that lends itself to some of the best work, I think. I do want to make sure we listen to some more of the music off of this new album. We're going to take a listen now to one called "Take It As It Comes."

[WILD HORSES, "TAKE IT AS IT COMES"]

(SINGING) Take it as it comes

I'm and evil man

Went out on the run

A shell of a man

Ran away from all the trouble in my mind

Lifting all the burning bridges left behind

So steady as she goes

NINA MOINI: Hm, sounds like a getaway song, Jed. And tell us a little bit more about what this song means to you.

JED LAPLANT: You kind of nailed it there. It does feel very much like a getaway song. I think that song was unique in that the music came first. We sort of wrote the narrative of the song to match the music. But yeah, the music felt kind of like a breaking out, a getaway, sort of like outrunning things, whether that be the last time we played in or the thought of this thing all going down. I mean, it felt like-- there's a sense of urgency, I think, in that song the last few years.

NINA MOINI: So when you're talking about adjusting to the new normal of this life, I wonder how much family and the long line of musicians that you come from, it sounds like, how much that kind of played into where you wanted to take your life creatively in terms of also having it be your profession and what you're doing full time.

JED LAPLANT: Yeah, it's interesting. I'm the first of the bunch to do it full-full time, make a living off of it. A lot of people in my family play music. And I think the thing I'm grateful for in all that is it gave me the value of playing music together and collaborating with other people and jamming and sharing the music, sort of thing. Yeah, it's fun to go full bore. And the family's been really supportive, and they come out to shows.

NINA MOINI: Good.

JED LAPLANT: And I'm playing a couple of guitars that my grandpa built. And it is the ties are there, for sure.

NINA MOINI: Yeah, it's sort of like inspiration all around you, it sounds like, from a young age.

JED LAPLANT: No doubt.

NINA MOINI: Let's listen to one more song before we have to let you go. This one's called "Worn and Weary Kind."

[WILD HORSES, "WORN AND WEARY KIND"]

(SINGING) The summer lands her very best

Well, it ain't no fun

And it ain't no rest

Our souls are worn and weary kind

So tell me now, darling

Can you see me blind?

I wondered about

NINA MOINI: Lovely. What was the inspiration behind this one, Jed?

JED LAPLANT: That one's definitely a love song. I wrote that-- I was writing in my notebook the morning after we got home from a tour in the middle of the night. And it was one of those mornings where the sun kind of eases on in through the window. And it was a fall morning. It was a little foggy, and it was kind of I think romanticizing the moment a little bit of-- really, it's a song for my wife, Ariana-- but just the idea that I think there's a rewarding feeling both in getting home from a run of shows and getting to do this for a living and then also getting to do it together.

And I think the adversity of this lifestyle lends itself to strengthening our love for one another. I think any sort of challenge, I think, in a relationship like that has the opportunity there to make a relationship or break it. And I think we've experienced a lot of it growing us stronger. And so I think this song was sort of an ode to that, I suppose.

NINA MOINI: That's beautiful. I'm so glad to hear that. So you are going to be back out on the road this fall. It sounds like you're going to be with Duluth's Trampled by Turtles on tour this fall. Tell us about where folks can catch you all.

JED LAPLANT: Our website has all the dates. Offhand, I believe we're with Trampled down in Kansas City, Fayetteville, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

NINA MOINI: Nice.

JED LAPLANT: And then we'll take a quick break, and then I think we'll start looping down South after that. But yeah, those guys have been good to us. They're a real neat bunch. And we certainly have looked up to them for a long time. So it's inspiring to be out on the road with those guys.

NINA MOINI: Yeah. Well, we wish you all the best with your music and all of your travels out on the road with everyone. And congratulations. Thanks so much, Jed.

JED LAPLANT: Thanks again for taking the time. Really appreciate it.

NINA MOINI: That was Jed LaPlant, leader of the Grand Rapids, Minnesota-based band Wild Horses. Their new album *The In Between* is out tomorrow.