

# Zayn Malik: Sometimes 1 is Better than 5

- Maeve Reilly

Last March, Zayn Malik sent teen and preteen girls around the globe into frenzy when he announced that he would be resigning from British boy band, One Direction. Now, about a year later, the 23-year-old musician is finally releasing new music and, so far, it is promising to be well worth the wait. Two singles, “Pillowtalk” and “iT’s YoU” have been released off his new album *Mind of Mine*, which is expected to be released on March 25th and is currently available for preorder.

Both “Pillow Talk” and “iT’s YoU” show off a side of Malik’s voice that wasn’t displayed in his One Direction days. His sound is both smooth and hauntingly beautiful in the ballad “iT’s YoU.” In the catchy and up-tempo “Pillowtalk,” Malik showcases the power and range in his voice. “Pillowtalk” has already soared in popularity, reaching the ninth spot on the iTunes Top Singles Chart. If these two released singles are any indication of how the rest of the album will sound, *Mind of Mine* will be an absolute treat for listeners.

In the process of going solo, Zayn Malik has altered and developed himself as an artist. In his reinvention, Malik has made some key changes to his public identity. First of all, he has followed the lead of other artists, such as Rihanna, Shakira, and Zendaya, in that he has dropped his last name and now markets himself as just “Zayn.” Aside from the name adjustment, Malik has been able to experiment with themes and lyrics more mature than the one’s typically written for One Direction’s young fan base. Additionally, Malik’s lyrics feel significantly more genuine than the often-formulaic lyrics of the British boy band, which never seemed to be about anyone who actually existed. It appears that now Malik is telling his own stories and sharing his personal experiences rather than singing words that were written just so that young girls would buy albums.

Overall, despite the backlash and disappointment from thousands of One Direction fans last year, becoming a solo artist was a crucial turning point for Malik and was the best decision he could have made. Now, Zayn Malik can express himself and demonstrate his talents in a way he never could when he was tied to a band. They say that 2 is better than 1, but sometimes 1 is better than 5.