Nick Jonas and the Administration?  Is this a joke?  That was my first reaction, well, right after I recovered from the horror that Nick Jonas was no longer a part of my favorite band, Jonas Brothers.

But no, friends, it’s true. Nick Jonas does in fact have a new band called The Administration, a clever play on his fascination with the presidency. The band is compromised of older musicians. Three out of the four members of The Administration were once a part of Prince’s entourage, the New Generation Band.

Nick’s new band is a bit . . . edgier.  He’s said in interviews that he wants there to be a distinct difference between the types of music both bands create.  And he definitely found the difference he was looking for.  The Administration's sound is more rock than pop. It’s deeper than what it sounds like on the surface, and it has a variety of meanings.

I was lucky enough to get to see Nick’s show while he was in St. Louis, and it was a complete 180 from any of the Jonas Brothers shows I’ve ever attended.  The first difference was the fact that there were only 2,000 people there instead of the typical tens of thousands.

At the beginning of the show he just walked out on stage with his guitar.  No gimmicks, no grand entrance out of the floor or from the ceiling. He just walked out on to the stage. He opened with a new song that, somehow, the crowd already knew (can you say YouTube?) and then moved on to his welcome speech.  Always so polite, he thanked us for coming and told us how much fun we were going to have. Then he transitioned into the Jonas Brothers song “Inseparable,” but with a new, jazzier twist.

Throughout the show he played mostly new songs such as “State of Emergency,” “Olive & an Arrow,” and “Conspiracy Theory.” (Notice how they all hint at his obsession with the presidency). During one such song, “Rose Garden,” the crowd showered the stage with roses.

Along with the new songs he also played some crowd favorites. At one point he sat down at a piano to play a medley of the JoBros songs, including “Black Keys” and a crowd favorite, “A Little Bit Longer”--two songs about his struggle with diabetes. During the piano portion of the show, Nick gave us some advice.  “2010: the year of no fear,” he said. Good advice, Nick.

2009 was a year of good music and Nick chose some of his favorite songs to cover.  Owl City’s “Fireflies,” his first choice, was not quite in the style of the Administration, but it was adorable nonetheless. He covered Taylor Swift’s “You Belong With Me,” a surprise to me, considering all the drama between Swift and Nick's brother Joe, but I guess he doesn’t hold grudges.  While performing “You Belong With Me,” Nick let the crowd do most of the singing, which was sad, because I was really looking forward to hearing him sing a song written from the perspective of a teenage girl. Later on in the night, he did a cover of Stevie Wonder’s “Signed, Sealed, Delivered.” That got all the adults up and dancing.

Overall, the show was good.  And I’m not just saying that because his last name is Jonas.  He really is good.  This new side of Nick Jonas is very raw.  Just Nick and the music. It won’t appeal to some of his younger fans, (though I’m sure they’ll have their parents buy the album anyway), but it’s gaining him respect in the music industry.

Nick Jonas and the Administration’s debut album “Who I Am” releases February 2.  Go buy it.  Buy five copies!