

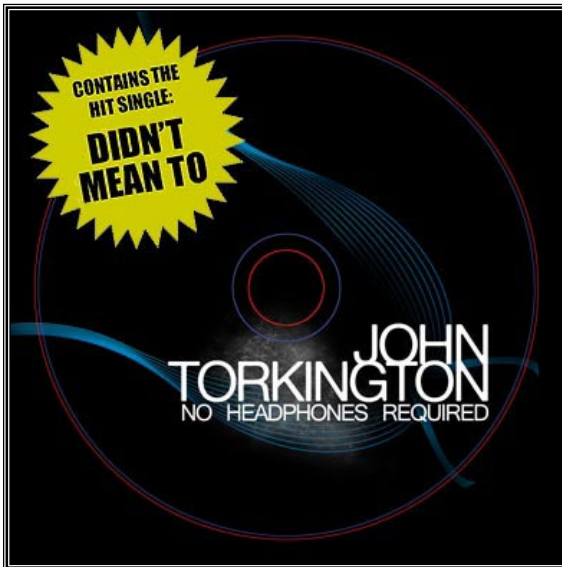


P R E S S R E L E A S E

Title: **No Headphones Required**

Artist: **John Torkington**

Distribution: [CD Baby](#)



November 24, 2009 – In the nick of time, before college life completely overwhelmed him, John Torkington has release his first commercial CD. The work **No Headphones Required** displays multiple facets of John's love for music, notably electronica, but strongly entrained with addictive dance rhythms, emotional sonic textures, and infectious forays into pop. This 10-track collection is an impressive showing of John's young talents, showcasing his compositional skills, ear for catchy melodies and rhythms, and naturally strong production skills.

STUDIO REVIEW

- The CD's opening track, *Legacy*, starts in deep space, morphing from one rhythmic consciousness to the next. All the while a trance beat is emerging, which is soon bouncing through our heads and feet.
- In track #2, *Mechanics*, John uses distorted rhythms to create a battle between baroque patterns and modern production sounds. Enter a blissful interlude of arpeggiated guitars, then a return to the mechanistic crunch, while an overlaid melody still rings of optimism.
- *The Silence* is one of the CD's most serene tracks. Full of positive energy and oceanic motion, it evokes a predawn, slowly and warmly breaking



from the darkness of night. The vocal performance by singer Katie Hardy adds a beautiful dimension to John's infectious melodic lines and chorus. This track and track #6 are Katie's first professional recordings.

- The CD's 4th track, *Down*, is classic electronica that builds into a steady beat. The melodic piano leads the charge, but the mood remains introspective, morphing to a stark bridge, then back into smooth rhythmic contemplation.
- Track #5 *Thing* commences with an 80's synth bass, but John immediately begins building a quiet infectious pulse. Soon we are traveling a dreamlike groove, comfortable and contented, held to reality by a tight snare drum fill but touched by ghostlike countermelodies. John weeps distortion into the cadence using retro guitars, reminiscent of old tape recordings, which continue to growl tastily as the main theme returns.
- The CD's 6th track, *Didn't Mean To*, is the pop hit of the collection, John's first artistic reach into that genre. Written while he was riding the bullet train in France, a playful melodic theme is immediately presented, followed with a catchy synth bass line. Irresistible rhythm and keyboard fills are added, with an unforgettable chorus and simply outstanding melodic bridge. Young Katie Hardy's sweet and powerful vocals fit this soundscape perfectly.
- The following track, *Mindful Prospects* is at once both easy and difficult to categorize. Traditional electronica, a game track, a dance track, then a chase scene, then a skip and a run. Classic square wave synth voices are awash in strong rhythms and dance progressions throughout.
- *No Headphones Required* follows as the title track, a 7-minute musical canvas of introspection and classic insistent trance rhythms, haunted by a distant cuckooing. A mesmerizing melody emerges in offbeat chords, stutters to a stop, restarts and morphs home to the theme, slowly adding back the melodic pieces into full orchestration.
- The CD contains 2 bonus tracks, two of John's compositions from a 2007 road trip from Arizona to Ohio. *Mechanics '07 mix* is actually the original basis of the CD's second track, containing similar mechanistic overtures, adding hypnotic offbeat metallic plate hammers and a powerful undercurrent of rhythm. Similarly, *Anatrance '07 mix*, perhaps the highest energy track on the CD, breaks into the sweat of classic dance club energy.



ABOUT THE CD

No Headphones Required is offered in CD and digital form through CD Baby (<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/torkingtonjohn>). The CD has also been released through iTunes and Napster, as well as other independent global distributors. See the links below.

About the Artists: John Torkington is currently enrolled at Chapman University in Orange, California as a film production major, focusing on audio production and post-production. He is currently juggling classes, numerous upperclassmen film projects and scores, stage and band performances, and internships in Los Angeles. Additionally, he is continuing to compose and produce new tracks for a future release.

Katie Hardy is currently enrolled at Scott Community College in Davenport, Iowa as an English major with a minor in Education. When she's not hitting the books, her favorite pastimes include reading classic novels, cursing at Mario Kart, and singing into her hairbrush. She is not a current member of any vocal group, but has been in the past and intends to be in the near future.

About the Studio: JR Utopian Studios (<http://www.jrutopianstudios.com/>) was co-founded by John and Rich Torkington in 2005, and is located in Mesa, Arizona. All tracks of **No Headphones Required** were recorded and produced at JRUS in 2009.

Online Presence:

CDBaby: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/torkingtonjohn>

JRUS: <http://www.jrutopianstudios.com/NHR.html>

Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C70_637fO3k(one of the full tracks)

Facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/john.torkington.music?v=box_3&ref=search

Napster:

http://home.napster.com/ns/music/artist_search.html?artist_id=12915836

i-Tunes: <http://www.apple.com/search/ipoditunes/?q=torkington>