



john montgomery

performing songwriter

Artist Info

"[His] melodies, instrumentation, and voice are all beautiful and accessible, the lyrics are poetic, mysterious and sensual. This music will get regular airtime on my radio show, for certain!"

Allison Miller, KVMR 89.5fm, Nevada City, CA

"A brilliant songwriter with a unique voice and message."

Eric McCarl, Weaving Libra Records

Contact

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Bio

With his unique brand of alternative folk pop music, John has attracted a loyal and ever-expanding following in both the United States and Europe. He released his debut album, "One Step Away," on Circus Drum Records in the fall of 2002.

As an artist, John has been influenced by a number of thinkers and writers, as well as by musicians. John's unique perspective as a songwriter is partly due to his training as a biologist. He earned a bachelor's degree in genetics and a doctorate in neurobiology before dedicating himself to a career in music.

John has explored various forms of writing, but he feels that songwriting is the medium that suits him best. "When harmony and melody and lyric all work together," he says, "you can hit some spots emotionally that are very difficult to reach in any other medium." His musical influences range from Bob Dylan, to Sam Cooke, Van Morrison, Leonard Cohen, and Eric Satie.

John was born in New York City and grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Brooklyn, New York. His father, a journalist for The New York Times, first encouraged John to play the guitar, and also introduced John to his future songwriting idol, Bob Dylan. John's mother, a singer and music teacher in the New York City school system, encouraged him to play music, write songs, and sing from an early age.

John's training as a scientist has informed his life as a musician in surprising ways. "For me, writing a song is very similar to doing scientific research," he says. "There's that same overpowering sense of excitement and release when you think you have something, when you think you've found or rendered some little piece of the truth."

"**One Step Away**," John's debut CD, co-produced by Dusty Wakeman (Lucinda Williams, Dwight Yoakam, Me'shell Ndegeocello), includes an illustrious cast of supporting musicians, and has received substantial radio play in both the U.S. and Europe. "One Step Away" was

featured for several months on listening stations at Tower Record stores in Los Angeles, and Hear Music stores in Santa Monica, Palo Alto, and Berkeley, CA. Songs from "One Step Away" have also appeared on cable television shows and independent films.

John has performed and been interviewed on a number of live radio shows, and has performed in venues such as The Temple Bar (Santa Monica, CA), Highland Grounds (Los Angeles), Espresso Gardens (San Jose, CA), Genghis Cohen (Los Angeles), Molly Malone's (Los Angeles), and Kirby's (Nevada City, CA).

Press

As a performer, being a one-man singer-songwriter of folk music is one of the more difficult situations to be in, as there isn't much gimmickry to rely upon... Either your music truly is great, or you'll blend in among the thousands of others doing the exact same thing. Fortunately, John Montgomery does have that needed talent... poignant and gentle... vocals that swarm like an emotional storm.

NoHoLA Magazine

"John Montgomery is the best act to come through here for a very long time."

Michael Starr,
Sound Engineer,
Molly Malone's,
Los Angeles, CA

His songwriting skills are amazing... with John Montgomery you get the whole package... an unbelievable talent.

Smother.net,
editor's pick



Press

This guy has a great voice... Montgomery was blessed with a resonance that is as sweet and wistful as the valentine you sent to your fourth grade teacher... His lyrics are poetic and graceful, full of imagery and keen insight.

Rob Dunne, minor7th.com

Montgomery offers bundles of Americana spirit on this roots-rock effort, whether on the instantly hummable chorus of the title track or the cascading acoustic folk strums of "By the Border," ... [or] the country-tinged "When I Paint My Masterpiece" or the serene contemporary "Good For your Heart," One Step Away is a promising debut from a promising artist."

Altarnative.com

Kindred spirits in the singer-songwriter fraternity, if you 're looking for a convenient frame of reference, would probably include Freedy Johnston and Ron Sexsmith, among others... One Step Away is a beautifully rendered collection of songs that bespeaks a talent to be reckoned with... Overall, this is an album full of immensely listenable, likeable tunes, that grow on you not only with their pretty and slyly catchy melodies, but with their subtle and deeper-than-you-first-thought observations on love and relationships. Get this, and keep an eye open for Montgomery's next CD odds are, you'll want to get that, too."

Wade Thomas, Fox Television

John Montgomery is a very talented singer/songwriter... His debut album "One Step Away" is a very nice mix of alternative-folk and pop music... a beautifully written, heartfelt CD... "One Step Away" is highly recommended..."
Raymond Swennen and Theo Geenen,
Radio ATL Bree Belgium

...rarely does someone come along with a CD on which every song is a joy to hear. You are instantly addicted. [One Step Away] is so hauntingly beautiful in its simplicity, so heartfelt in the complexity of its message, that it brings tears to one's eyes. "One Step Away"... moves you to listen to it over and over and over again. Instantly, these songs will be humming in your head. They transport you to a place that is so touching as to be almost heartbreaking.

H. Rosen, Gadabout