

Mp3 Jay Johnson - Yellow



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Acoustic alternative pop with an introspective elegance and a mystical tone. 8 MP3 Songs ROCK: Acoustic, POP: British Pop Details: With an ear for melody, gifted Jay Johnson first explored music at the age of seven, fostering his talents while a student of the violin for twelve years. Combining his natural abilities, musical studies, and inspiration from a musical family, the Boston native not only gained an understanding of the logic of music, but was also introduced to the magic and emotion of creating unforgettable music. Jay describes his approach as "holistic"-three dimensions working together to create a desired sound. "I create a vocal melody first, having a simple distinctive melody that is either catchy, beautiful, or unpredictable. Secondly, I work the words out of the melody; and lastly, focus on the instrumental structure," explains the musician who has been writing songs for most of his life. Jeff Buckley, Coldplay, Paul McCartney, and Daniel Lanois are some of the bands and artists who have influenced Jay the most, though his unique vocals and driving organic style are all his own. The singer/songwriter describes his music as Acoustic Alternative Pop, a description that reflects his attempt to create something memorable and original, not just "Rock and Roll." "As I'm plucking at the strings and working out a song, I'm imagining it as a much larger production," he says. "I don't just hear it as a traditional four-piece band sound. I hear it with orchestral instruments, space sounds, and lots of harmonies." Oxford, Mississippi is renowned for its musical talent. That's where Jay planted his roots after being awarded a scholarship to sing in the University of Mississippi Men's Choir. "Although my experiences with the music department were essential to my development, I quickly realized that I was on the wrong musical track and that what I really desired was to sing my own songs," he says. Jay began honing his songwriting skills and played in many reputable venues in Mississippi including the University of Mississippi Union Unplugged Series, Blind Jim's, and the Hoka, just to name a few. Jay then embarked

on what he jokingly calls an "extended ski vacation," but while in Salt Lake City, Utah, he managed to build a large and diverse following in an area not usually known for its music scene. Jay played at Salt Lake City sites including Zephyr Club, Dead Goat, The Gallivan Center, and other venues. He gained local notoriety by winning the 2002 Rock 99 Bud World Battle of the Bands and the 2000 and 2002 preliminary SXSW Battle of the Bands showcases. In October 2000, Jay self-released his first CD entitled Yellow engineered and produced by L.A. producer Sean Halley. His music also has credits with Trackster Pictures for the soundtrack of the film Water with Food Coloring. The buzz that Jay was creating started to spill into other areas of the country, especially Nashville, TN, where Jay was partnering with award-winning producer David Zaffiro (Eli, Miss Angie). Together they created a two-song calling card, "Broken" and "All Alone" (both songs can be heard at jayjohnsonband.com), which is generating excitement from fans all across the country. However, knowing that the Olympic games were on the horizon, Jay decided to remain in Utah for what would be the culmination of his musical experiences in Salt Lake-being chosen to play in front of an international audience of thousands during the 2002 Olympics, a rare honor for any local artist. He performed at major venues throughout the 2002 winter games-Budweiser's Bud World, Winter Fest, Salt Lake City Music Festival, and the Olympic and Paralympic Village Coffee House (where he was voted by fans as the unofficial entertainer of the Canadian Olympic Team). In May of 2002 Jay moved his home base from Salt Lake to Nashville. "It was too obvious," he says. "When guys who are so well-respected in the industry are excited about your music and want to be involved, you've got to go." Jay's success as a local artist in Salt Lake, his high-profile appearances at the winter games, and his recordings with David Zaffiro caught the attention of Producer Mark Heimermann (dc Talk, Amy Grant, Chris Gaines), P. J. Heimermann, and Bruce Koblisch at Force of Gravity Publishing. This was the beginning of a new partnership and a "Nashville team" that brought a variety of new artists and producers into the fold. This team has succeeded in assembling a cast of world-renowned writers whose credits include Eric Clapton, Lifehouse, Bonnie Raitt, Faith Hill, and Nickel Creek. After a busy Summer of writing and recording new material, Jay has returned to the road with his solo acoustic show in continued support of his CD, "Yellow." He has partnered with PLAY Booking for a regional 2003 Fall Tour, which Jay officially kicked off in Nashville on September 23rd.

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