

Tori Sparks Music

Glass Mountain Records
Hand Over Foot Publishing (ASCAP)

PRESS

"Here's a singer/songwriter with the strong, eloquent vocals of Bonnie Raitt and the guitar mastery of Joni Mitchell. [Tori Sparks'] second indie release *Under this Yellow Sun* is a bounty of subtle rock and haunting blues..."

-- Nancy Dunham, *Relix*

"Tori Sparks' voice isn't one of those passive instruments that treats a lyric like it's a classified ad... Here is a supple, teasing voice that flutters and flies seemingly without effort from note to note, line to line, so that weepy sensitivity and pleading vulnerability cozy up with tough resilience and firm resolve so seamlessly you never even notice the mood swing."

-- Jeff Tamarkin, *Harp Magazine*

"The talented Tori Sparks... [is] an Americana-Pop knockout..."

-- Voice Choice; *The Village Voice*

"...[Her] songcraft is sparkling and Sparks' voice is warm and inviting ... the effects can be simply stunning... a winner of an album..."

-- Joseph McCombs; *All Music Guide*

"Sparks needs little in the way of effects or layering to get her music across... strong and fabulous..."

-- Jason MacNeil, *PopMatters*

"[Tori] should add The Pretenders to [her] list of influences. In a good way. I'd take that any day."

-- Ben Folds

"Sparks... [has] stuck to her muse and it was exactly what people wanted."

-- John Stoehr; *Savannah Morning News*

"This woman has got a talent unheard of in a long time. ... I listened to the album again and again ... [Tori] can make you believe in something whether you want to or not. She has the purest vocals I've heard since Kate Bush."

-- Rebecca Hosking, *Music News Nashville*

"[Tori] is an excellent songwriter... Her songs are well crafted, personal and at times introspective. ... More than anything, Sparks deserves to be recognized for her voice. It can take her about anywhere she wants -- it's that good."

-- David Bowling, *The DailyVault*

"[She] has really stepped it up. Those are the songwriting skills of someone like Roseanne Cash... Providence RI {from *Under this Yellow Sun*} has Springsteen a la Nebraska or Darkness on the Edge of Town magic about it. Tori really blew me away with this record!"

-- Jon Delange, *Tinderbox Music*

"This multi-talented artist really struts her stuff on [*Under This Yellow Sun*]. Her warm gutsy vocals are full of soul... mixed with lots of attitude. You'll want this one for your record collection."

--Brad Fischer, *Nashville Music Guide*

"...Both concise and taut mixtures of lyrics with music that are thoughtful and evocative without being pretentious. ... Discover Sparks' powerful voice now...!"

--Ron Saranich, *Cosmik Debris*

".....Mature and intelligent songwriting... *Rolling Stone* features and FM radio playlists are very real possibilities rather than wistful pipe dreams."

-- Jonathan Dyer, *Phase 9 Entertainment*

"Tori Sparks pushes a sensual, sophisticated style and brings an impressive array of lyricism, commanding vocals and rhythmic energy. Sparks lets go of the typical restraints of the singer-songwriter stigma... shows something that many artists forget—the truth."

--Jeff Russell, *Murfreesboro Pulse*

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BIOGRAPHY

Tori Sparks is known for her gut-wrenchingly emotive voice, her habit of playing her guitar as if it were a drum kit, and her ability to take an audience from laughter to tears and back in point-oh-four seconds. Her dynamic live show is equal parts soulful singing and zany stand-up-style humor. Sparks delighted her stalwart supporters and gained countless new fans with the release of her eclectic sophomore album, *Under This Yellow Sun*. It has been praised by *Relix*, *Harp*, *Maverick*, *Skope*, *The Nashville Music Guide*, XM Radio, and others. The mélange of textures contained within the twelve songs defies the bounds of expectation.

Under This Yellow Sun was produced by Sparks and indie rock veteran David Henry (R.E.M., Ben Folds, Josh Rouse, Widespread Panic, Cowboy Junkies). Musicians Steve Bowman of Counting Crows, Aaron Sands of Jars of Clay, John Deaderick (Patty Griffin, Lucinda Williams, James Taylor), and others added their personal panache to the raw energy of Tori's music. *Under This Yellow Sun* was the first release under the auspices of Tori's own record label (Glass Mountain Records) and publishing company (Hand Over Foot Publishing), and features a bonus music video for the first single, "Cold War."

The album was released in fall of 2007, and continues to receive airplay on radio stations across the country. After breaking the Top 100 on the RHYL Weighted Charts, the album was immediately licensed by MTV, Lifetime, and the Oxygen network for use in their 2008 television seasons, and featured by XM Radio Unsigned. This exposure prompted Universal Music France to contact Sparks, who is bilingual, and has toured in France and other parts of Europe. UMF will include "Cold War" on their upcoming double-disc compilation, to be released internationally on February 4th, 2008.

Tori's relentless touring has taken her from New York to Los Angeles to Miami, from Toronto to London to Paris, and through every small town in between. The fearless chanteuse makes the audience her own in any setting. Besides her big black boots, and balls-to-the-wall guitar playing, she is known for being a part of and organizing benefit concerts on behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, F.A.C.E., the March of Dimes, and the One Campaign.

Contrary to popular belief, Sparks did not emerge Venus-like from Lake Michigan on a gigantic seashell. (If she had, she would have been freezing.) Tori was born in Chicago, and grew up in Sarasota, FL. She recorded her first EP, *Tidewaters*, in 2003, which attracted the attention of an independent label based in Nashville. Tori was eighteen, and an honors student at Florida State University. The label snapped her up, promptly recorded her debut album and music video *Rivers + Roads* in 2005, moved her to Nashville... and even more promptly went belly-up. Where some would crumble, Tori emerged from the wreckage and dove into eight solid months of exhaustive touring, radio, and video promotion. Radio and video airplay in the U.S., Belgium, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, France, and England resulted.

One of the aforementioned eight months was devoted to The Feed Your Soul Guitar Project, a tour and folk art auction benefiting Oxfam America. ASCAP, *The Village Voice*, *Paste Magazine Online*, *Northeast InTune Magazine*, *All Music*, NBC, ABC, FOX, the Women's Right to Rock Music Festival and others thought this was pretty cool and said so. Tori now has a big map of the U.S. and Europe, full of little colored pins marking cities she's played. Tori's debut music video, "Rivers + Roads," was screened at the Flint Film Festival 2006, and was selected "Best Pop Video" at the Indie Gathering 2006. She was selected as a Unisong International Songwriting Contest Finalist for her politically-charged alterna-blues tune "The Poster Child" in 2005, and again in 2007 for "Cold War."

Tori still lives in Nashville. She has cats, and plants, and a fake fireplace. She tours a lot, and screen prints her merch tee shirts by hand. She goes home for Christmas, and Thai food. *Under This Yellow Sun* and *Rivers + Roads* can each be purchased for less than the price of a veggie burger in L.A. at one of 100+ digital distributors in 25 countries, including the ubiquitous iTunes, and 30+ CD retailers, including BestBuy.com, Target.com. For more information, see www.torisparks.com or www.myspace.com/torisparks. More information regarding Glass Mountain Records can be found at www.glassmountainrecords.com.

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DISCOGRAPHY

Albums

"Hope For Me" (Single: *A Very Tori Christmas*) (Glass Mountain Records, 2007)
Under This Yellow Sun (Glass Mountain Records, 2007)
Rivers + Roads (Platinum Plus Records, 2005)
Tidewaters (Self-released, 2003)

Videos

Cold War (music video) (Glass Mountain Records, 2007)
Tori Sparks with Producer David Henry: The Making of Under This Yellow Sun (Glass Mountain Records, 2007)
Behind The Scenes: Screen Printing Madness with Tori Sparks (Glass Mountain Records, 2007)
Rivers + Roads (music video) (Platinum Plus Records, 2006)

Compilation Discs

Country (double-disc) (Universal Music France, 2007)
KSYM-FM Camp Victory Compilation for the Troops (SCOOP KSYM-FM, 2007)
MSMF Multiple Sclerosis Music Fest 2006 Compilation CD (Montel Williams MS Foundation, 2006)
Canadian Music Week Best Unsigned Artists of 2006 (Tunetank, 2006)
A Taste of Triple A #16 Compilation (A Taste of Triple A, 2006)

AWARDS

Finalist – 2007 Unisong International Songwriting Contest ("Cold War")
Best Pop Video – 2006 Indie Gathering ("Rivers + Roads")
Selection – 2006 Flint Film Festival ("Rivers + Roads")
Recipient -- 2007 ASCAP Plus Award
Recipient -- 2006 ASCAP Plus Award
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Finalist -- 2005 Unisong International Songwriting Contest ("The Poster Child")