

Toad the Wet Sprocket

pairing soulful, insightful lyrics with melodic folk-pop



“Toad’s execution of their considerable musical catalog was both vibrant and faultless.”

— *Santa Barbara Independent*

“Toad the Wet Sprocket still has it.”

— *St. Louis Metromix*

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Named in honor of a sketch by the **Monty Python** comedy troupe, this 4-piece band of Santa Barbara, CA high school cronies came to be known as **Toad the Wet Sprocket** in 1986. To this day, their mellow, melodic folk-pop sound made them one of the most successful alternative rock bands of the early 1990s.

Singer **Glen Phillips**, guitarist **Todd Nichols**, bassist **Dean Dinning**, and drummer **Randy Guss** spent time honing their skills in area bars. Then, in 1988, they entered a nearby studio and came out with their debut LP, *Bread and Circus*. Recorded in just 8 days and for a cost of \$650, this inaugural recording was originally sold in Santa Barbara area record stores as a home-made cassette. While the band was recording their second album, *Pale* (16 days & \$6,000) they caught the attention of the LA offices of Columbia Records.

After agreeing to the band's request to reissue *Bread and Circus* only in its original form — without any alterations or remixes — Columbia Records signed **Toad the Wet Sprocket**.

Then in 1991, **Toad the Wet Sprocket's** commercial breakthrough came as the single “All I Want” (which had nearly been left off the 1991 album *Fear*) became a Top 20 hit. Gavin's airplay reports also listed it as number one. After “Fear” was certified platinum, another single from the LP, “Walk on the Ocean,” also became a successful track for the band. They played over 300 shows on the *Fear* tour, a two-year marathon ending in throat surgery for **Phillips'** overused pipes.

Three years later, **Toad** returned with *Dulcinea*, generating yet another Top 40 hit (not to mention a six week run as number one on Billboard's Modern Rock Tracks) with the single “Fall Down.” *Dulcinea* then also sold enough copies to reward **Toad** with another platinum certification.

1995 brought *In Light Syrup*, a collection of unreleased material, B-Sides and movie soundtrack songs. Featuring “Good Intentions,” another hit single that's also been featured on the platinum selling *Friends* TV show soundtrack, *In Light Syrup* recently became certified gold.

Coil, **Toad the Wet Sprocket's** fifth proper LP, followed in 1997. Then in July, 1998, the group parted ways. Even so, in 1999, *PS (A Toad Retrospective)* was released. In 2004, Columbia/Legacy released **Toad's** live CD *Welcome Home, Live from the Arlington Theater*.

Since 2006, the band has played to enthusiastic crowds of all ages across the country, proving that great music truly is timeless.



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