

IMOGEN HEAP

Biography

(written & inspired by fans via Twitter)*

“Imogen is an eccentric, innovative musician who blends aspects of the world around her into a beautiful universe of song.” @Jack, founder Twitter

A Grammy nominated multi-instrumentalist, who began writing music by her 13th birthday (and broke America by her 28th)¹, an innovative singer-songwriter with a quirky and inspirational character², a tech savvy musician with an eccentric sense of style and uniquely graceful music³, Imogen Heap is a profoundly English artist whose songs transcend time and place to conjure captivating digital dreamscapes of love, loss and hopefulness.⁴

Imogen’s distinct, eclectic-style, a brilliant kaleidoscopic symphony of voices, beats, sounds and emotions⁵ - mixing beautiful lyrics with breathtaking melodies⁶, traditional instrumentation with computers, to create a sound that’s folk-hued and digital and sparks the imagination⁷ - has won her over 350,000 friends on MySpace and more than 250,000+ followers on Twitter. Fans include Brian Eno, Jeff Beck and *Scrubs* star Zach Braff⁸, while US chat show hosts David Letterman, Jay Leno, Carson Daly and Hollywood mega blogger, Perez Hilton, have all championed her ability, musically and physically, to transfix⁹. Imogen is, in all senses, an EXPERIENCE.¹⁰

Age 5, she crept downstairs in the middle of the night, carved her name in BIG letters on the grand piano lid and swore it wasn't her¹¹. Age 12 she learned how to layer sound with an Atari and sequencing software.¹² Age 18 she signed her first record contract and age 20 she released her debut album, *iMegaphone*¹³.

An anagram of her name, *iMegaphone* mixed angst with vulnerability, quirky noise with sombre reflection, to be refreshing and intriguing¹⁴. An aurally delicious blend of emotive piano, understated technology and haunting melodies¹⁵, it was a promising experiment in turning emotions into something tangible¹⁶. Produced by David Kahne, Eurythmic Dave Stewart and Bjork/Madonna collaborator Guy Sigsworth it attracted a loyal following and her first film credit¹⁷; single "Come Here Boy" featured in Rupert Penry-Jones’s *Virtual Sexuality*¹⁸

2002 saw a new side to Imogen as she embarked on a short collaborative journey with Guy Sigsworth, forming electronica duo Frou Frou¹⁹. Their album, *Details*, shifted from the darker *iMegaphone* to an airy, dream-pop landscape²⁰. Laden with skipping beats, cool synth layers, and stunning attention to detail²¹, its glittering melancholy was punctuated with beautifully intricate and poetic lyrics²². Together Imogen & Guy were able to take computer music and bring from it real sensuality and emotion²³. Frou Frou toured Europe and America, and became an underground hit after *Scrubs* star Zach Braff used “Let Go” in his film *Garden State*²⁴. The duo also recorded a version of Bonnie Tyler’s “Holding Out For A Hero” for the closing credits of *Shrek 2*²⁵.

□ On March 9, 2009 Imogen invited fans, via her YouTube vBlog, to write her new press biog using micro-blogging site Twitter. More than 1500, 140 character tweets were received. This is the result.

□ Correct as of 28th April, 2009

With new confidence and determined to have complete creative control, Imogen remortgaged her flat to fund her second solo album. Working almost entirely alone, *Speak For Yourself* took Imogen exactly a year to write and produce. It was released in 2005 on her own Megaphonic label²⁶. An album of extreme joy, desperate sadness and a little bit of wondering what it would be like to be a stalker²⁷, it's Imogen laying bare her soul over 12 tracks²⁸. Stunningly original and creative, incorporating everything from piano to blips and boops, carpet tubes, passing trains and a frying pan²⁹, a shimmering vehicle of electro and lustrous orchestra³⁰, the album delivered huge pop hooks, atmospheric soundscapes and lyrics to make you consider the intricacies of your own life³¹. Therapy on a disc, a journal read aloud and set to music³², this time Imogen took all she'd learnt musically and lyrically to a whole new dimension³³.

Utilizing the internet to market *Speak For Yourself*, Imogen pioneered a new Artist/Audience relationship³⁴. She was one of the first artists to bring her music to a new audience via MySpace, iTunes, YouTube and her blog³⁵. The inclusion of sparse vocoder/harmonizer song "Hide & Seek" in the season 2 finale of hit TV show *The O.C.* was another jump start for Imogen's career³⁶, sending the song to #8 on the US iTunes Hot 100 Songs and to #1 on iTunes UK³⁷. "Hide & Seek"'s rise led to licensing deals with Sony BMG on both sides of the Atlantic, ensuring the album got the full release and promotion it deserved³⁸.

Electrifying performances on David Letterman, Jay Leno and Carson Daly cemented Imogen's US success. Unique sets at Sundance and Coachella, and extensive touring, established her as an unparalleled live experience³⁹. No two gigs are alike. Treading a fine line between chaos and brilliance, live she's technology meets edge of the seat spontaneity in a one woman show.⁴⁰ With fairy lights, a MacBook Pro, clear Perspex piano, Keytar and a mbira, she sends shivers down the spine⁴¹, looping sounds and hitting switches, and bringing it all together into one of the most intimate and intoxicating shows imaginable⁴². New and exciting every time, she doesn't just play music, live she *IS* music⁴³.

In 2005 and 2006 Imogen became songstress of choice for US film and TV⁴⁴. "Goodnight And Go", "Speeding Cars" and her cover of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" were all used in *The O.C.*⁴⁵ She Heap-ified children's nursery rhyme "I'm A Lonely Little Petunia In An Onion Patch" for an episode of HBO's *Six Feet Under*⁴⁶, covered the Classics IV song "Spooky" for Reese Witherspoon film *Just Like Heaven*⁴⁷ and wrote, performed, recorded and produced "Can't Take It In" for *The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe*⁴⁸.

From English eccentric to celebrated artist, Imogen was nominated for Best New Artist and Best Song Written For Motion Picture for "Can't Take It In" at the 49th Grammy Awards in 2007⁴⁹ and caused quite a stir on the red carpet when she turned up wearing a lily pond themed dress complete with Gary The Grammy Frog⁵⁰.

After touring *Speak For Yourself* across Europe and America, Imogen was eager to get back to recording and start work on her third solo album, *Ellipse*. For inspiration, she set out on a writing trip which took her to Maui, Tasmania, China and Japan⁵¹. The album's first song, "Wait It Out", was started sitting at a piano in a house in Maui, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, in March 2007⁵². When she came back to England, Imogen took on her childhood

family home⁵³ and fittingly transformed the room she used to play in as a child into her studio⁵⁴.

From the writing trip to building the studio, recording to mixing, tweaking to re-tweaking, Imogen kept fans regularly updated on the album's progress via Twitter, MySpace and YouTube⁵⁵. Partly out of love for her fans, partly to maintain her sanity⁵⁶, she pioneered a new kind of creative process, one that's open, inclusive and asks fans to participate⁵⁷. From bursts of late night craziness via 12seconds.tv, to little snippets of songs in her 40+ YouTube posts⁵⁸, the always upbeat Ms Heap video-blogged the hell out the recording⁵⁹. An artist who has gone above and beyond just making an album⁶⁰, redoing, fixing, ripping apart and piecing together the picture perfect record⁶¹, she worked herself into near madness, documenting and sharing all the tantrums⁶². Amazingly accessible and down to earth for such a luminary⁶³, Imogen truly understands the relationship with her fans as a human one, rather than one married to business⁶⁴. She even encourages fans to be creative, writing her press bio and helping her design album artwork⁶⁵. The Twitter biography itself defines Imogen's innovative, fresh and fun approach to everything she does⁶⁶.

If the vBlogs heightened expectation, the first new track to emerge, "Not Now But Soon", assured fans wouldn't be disappointed⁶⁷. First airing on hit US show *Heroes*, it once again confirmed her ability to transport to another level, pushing boundaries with raw beats and ethereal melodies⁶⁸. Imogen also found time during recording to remix former Sneaker Pimp Chris Corner's IAMX single "Spit It Out", giving it a slinky new outlook⁶⁹ and re-record "Hide & Seek" for Rupert Hine's *Songs For Tibet* charity project⁷⁰. She contributed to Brian Eno's *Plague Songs* album, collaborated with Nitin Sawhney on "Bring It Home"⁷¹, played at the wedding of *The O.C.* creator Josh Schwartz⁷², co-wrote and produced a track for Mika's second album and donated an unfinished track, "The Song That Never Was", to the Twitter charity event Twestival – fans donated to download Imogen's vocals and add their own music; there are now more than 400 versions of the song⁷³.

A multi-instrumentalist with what seems to be limitless creative ability⁷⁴, the culmination of eccentric style and a sound which is unlike anything else⁷⁵, Imogen's an artist who isn't afraid to experiment, either with her music or with her relationship with her fans⁷⁶. Her new album once again seduces you into a world where fantasy and reality meet in an atmospheric dream state⁷⁷, to be the musical soulmate of both *Casablanca* and *Bladerunner*⁷⁸. It's organic electronica⁷⁹. Hauntingly beautiful computer music⁸⁰. Avant-garde. Otherworldly. Comforting. Tantalising. Heaven on a disc⁸¹.

"Imogen Heap is my sweet religion! Her music makes me shine. And if you don't like her, I will put you in a headlock!" @Perezhilton

- 1 **@marcthehitmaker** - Washington D.C., USA. Husband, father, music entrepreneur.
- 2 **@AdamW2009** - the twittersphere, loyal supporter of heap.
- 3 **@vinmos** - El Paso, Texas, USA. Hopeful, optimistic, dorkie, artsie, techie.
- 4 **@replikath** - Manchester, England. Rachael K, poet, musician, optimist.
- 5 **@Guitaress** - Oslo, Norway. Musician, writer, cultural historian, dreamer.
- 6 **@josecuevas4** - Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. Creative high school student who loves IH.
- 7 **@bluecanarykit** - Jonesboro, AR USA. Cartoonist/Graphic Artist struggling with self-doubt.
- 8 **@flip_uk** - Leeds, UK. Former muso turned wannabe volcanologist.
- 9 **@kyrstie** - London, England. Cake baking, shoe loving rock chick.
- 10 **@princess_lia** - Singapore. Foodie, traveller, gadget freak & a friend.
- 11 **@imogenheap** - Londonish, all of the above.
- 12 **@jchant** - Toronto, Canada. Dreamer. Engineer. Foodie. Geek. Free.
- 13 **@dangennoe** - London, England. Writer, legendary music journalist, biog tzar.
- 14 **@mercurymarc** - Cardiff, Wales. Student songwriter listening with eyes.
- 15 **@HelenJayne** - Moncton, NB, Canada. Daydreaming, writer, maker of lists.
- 16 **@ancona_87** - the twittersphere, loyal supporter of heap.
- 17 **@kyrstie** - London, England. Cake baking, shoe loving rock chick.
- 18 **@marcthehitmaker** - Washington D.C., USA. Husband, father, music entrepreneur.
- 19 **@JustSteve** - the twittersphere, loyal supporter of heap.
- 20 **@electroubadour** - Athens, GA, USA. Electric rainbow romantic creating music.
- 21 **@daylite_robbery** - St. Albert, Canada. Hard-working, fun-loving student, music enthusiast.
- 22 **@AlexisParis** - Paris, France. I am a cloud gardener!
- 23 **@AASPB**Y - Spring Hill, Tennessee, USA. An aspiring songwriter and musician.
- 24 **@jamesdclarke** - Wolverhampton, England. Music, web and mobile geek. Drummer.
- 25 **@VariRinoa** - Hamburg, Germany. Normal guy with especially long hair.
- 26 **@heaptweets** - London, England. Tweet loving cut'n'paste merchant.
- 27 **@iamtgallagher** - Watford, UK. Talkative, friendly, curly haired student.
- 28 **@karennnyo** - Houston, USA. Student, realist, exhaustively questions everything.
- 29 **@reliefnexttome** - Hagerstown, Maryland, USA. Student, music lover, drummer and failing perfectionist.
- 30 **@peachyoghurt** - Essex, England. Teenage student, writer, artist, detached.
- 31 **@bseale** - Toronto, Canada. Not afraid of a challenge.
- 32 **@abbyja** - Washington D.C., USA. Work at the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.
- 33 **@LauraMaj** - Kalisz, Poland. Music, butterfly, tears, ocean, lighthouse.
- 34 **@LAURIE** - The Bronx, USA. Due process music fiend DJ.
- 35 **@dave__mac** - Space Coast, FL, USA. Tech Support geek since 1979.
- 36 **@XjuktmonkeyX** - Ringgold, Georgia, USA. College student & avid music junkie.
- 37 **@saragarth** - Foulridge, England. Musician. Thinker. Strangely vivid imagination.
- 38 **@dangennoe** - London, England. Writer, legendary music journalist, biog tzar.
- 39 **@wearereplenish** - Birmingham, England. Helping rockstars takeover the internet.
- 40 **@jamesdclarke** - Wolverhampton, England. Music, web and mobile geek. Drummer.
- 41 **@claireista** - Glasgow, Scotland. Tea loving semi-pro concert goer.
- 42 **@benfo** - Toronto, Canada. Unassumingly eccentric, fashionably unconventional.
- 43 **@zoecello** - The woods, Northern California, USA. Avant cellist, composer and goofball.
- 44 **@kyrstie** - London, England. Cake baking, shoe loving rock chick.
- 45 **@mocchi456** - Cleveland, USA. Benevolent musical optimistic, ambitious student.
- 46 **@Knatterjak** - Buffalo, USA. Dangerously goodlooking (often sarcastic) musician.
- 47 **@imi339** - Budapest, Hungary. Music-lover, friendly, funny, kind, sociable student.
- 48 **@imi339** - Budapest, Hungary. Music-lover, friendly, funny, kind, sociable student.
- 49 **@sunmarsh** - Jacksonville, USA. Full-time college student, Linguistics major.

- 50 **@Abbie2020** - Guildford, UK. Abbie Rumsey, conservation student :)
- 51 **@Inksane** - Lund, Sweden. Music-loving student - crazy, dreamy, prudent.
- 52 **@balexander907** - Greensboro, North Carolina, USA. Creative, inventive, outgoing, ambitious, caring student.
- 53 **@Inksane** - Lund, Sweden. Music-loving student - crazy, dreamy, prudent.
- 54 **@gooseeg92** - Las Vegas Nevada, US. Curious, empathetic, restless, clever, critical.
- 55 **@Inksane** - Lund, Sweden. Music-loving student - crazy, dreamy, prudent.
- 56 **@danikjohnson** - Kamloops, BC, Canada. Aspiring photographer, writer and mentor.
- 57 **@robinsloan** - San Francisco, CA, USA. General-purpose media nerd :-)
- 58 **@lionl** - Guatemala City, Guatemala. Medicine student, music lover, teenager.
- 59 **@Caleb_** - Jordan Station, Canada. Christian Music and Media Nerd!
- 60 **@ademtce** - Houston, Texas, USA. Student, writer, musician.
- 61 **@shleesaid** - Simi Valley, USA. Unique, dedicated, enthusiastic/driven, special ed. caregiver.
- 62 **@junechampagne** - Bradenton, Florida, USA. Hopeful writer and music fancier.
- 63 **@zoecello** - The woods, Northern California, USA. Avant cellist, composer and goofball.
- 64 **@dblogged** - Chicago, USA. Community builder, optimist, money manager.
- 65 **@aleXpirollo** - Nocera Inferiore, Italy. Teenage student who loves exploring new frontiers of music.
- 66 **@lionl** - Guatemala City, Guatemala. Medicine student, music lover, teenager.
- 67 **@dangennoe** - London, England. Writer, legendary music journalist, biog tzar.
- 68 **@JustSteve** - the twittersphere, loyal supporter of heap.
- 69 **@energyUK** - Lincoln, England. Computer games programmer in training.
- 70 **@Beegale** - Frome, Somerset, England. Redhead, archaeologist, bad with numbers.
- 71 **@Utada_Heap** - Central Coast, Australia. Xander Cross, dacner and student.
- 72 **@SebastianHull** - West Hollywood, USA. Eccentric artist, actor, boochunga, bananas.
- 73 **@heaptweets** - London, England. Tweet loving cut'n'paste merchant.
- 74 **@ademtce** - Houston, Texas, USA. Student, writer, musician.
- 75 **@jedwardclark** - San Diego, USA. James Clark, student, somewhat-musician, introvert.
- 76 **@martin_p_a** - Montréal, Canada. Witty & eclectic literature student.
- 77 **@abyssofdreams** - Erfstadt, Germany. Bernhard Breisser, Audio Engineer & Musician.
- 78 **@KTWTD** - Cary NC, USA. Software developer/guitar player.
- 79 **@aard** - Miami, USA. Mentally divergent, loquacious, cromulent, shiny.
- 80 **@air_n22** - Omaha, Nebraska, USA. Erin Case a unique imaginative first grade teacher.
- 81 **@Mitholas** - Houthalen, Belgium. Music-Crazed nutcase with good intentions.