

'N SYNC

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
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The five members of 'N SYNC - Justin Timberlake, Chris Kirkpatrick, Joey Fatone, Lansten Bass and JC Chaséz - have a little more in common than youth, charm and slick music industry packaging. Not only do the Orlando, Florida based band members share a passion for harmonious vocals, rhythmic dancing and dreams of stardom, they also possess a natural ability to create, record and perform great music.



Reflecting the perfect synchronization of five individual vocals, JustiN, ChriS, JoeY, LansteN and JC derived the band name by utilizing the last letter of each of their first names to spell 'N SYNC.

'N SYNC's universal bond of musical talent and creativity received international acclaim when '98 debut self-titled album sold over ten million copies and garnered four No. 1 singles, "I Want You Back," "Tearing Up My Heart," "God Must Have Spent A Little More Time On You," and "Drive Myself Crazy."

Even with a hectic touring schedule of over 300 concert dates in the last year, 'N SYNC still found the time to release Christmas EP, "Home For Christmas," and record a separate country version of "God Must Have Spent A Little More Time On You" with Alabama.

Other collaborations include a June 17, 2000 ABC network telecast of 'N SYNC and American Latina songstress, Gloria Estefan, receiving the prestigious ALMA (American Latino Media Arts) Special Achievement Award for "The Ten Outstanding Music Video Performers" with their hit video and single, "Music Of My Heart."

As they travel smoothly along the highway of musical success, 'N SYNC hit a bumpy detour in late '99 when they changed record labels and management. Legal issues escalated over the split, yet came to a quick and amicable conclusion for all parties concerned.

Signing with their new label, Jive Records, yielded the March released sophomore album, "No Strings Attached" and its explosive debut single, "Bye Bye Bye."

"We did the album independently," Chris explains. "A lot of the songs were written and produced in-house. We are so excited about this album!"

"No Strings Attached" reached No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, sold an amazing 3.76 million albums in its first three weeks and shattered records as being the first album in history to sell more than 1 million albums in one day.

"It was a challenge doing this record," Justine admits. "Picking out the right songs that fit where you want to go musically and where you want to take your fans. We went through a lot of things in '99 and we went through them really fast."

The songs on "No Strings Attached" demonstrate 'N SYNC's wide musical range and capacity for artistic growth, renewal and redefinition.

"We have a very broad sound," Justin says. "There are some different directions we can take it, so we did as much of that as we could on this album. That's why we called the album 'No Strings Attached.' We have no strings to hold us down. We're ready to show the world that."

"No Strings Attached" exemplifies top hybrid songwriting in the pop-flavored Max Martin tunes, "Bye Bye Bye" and "It's Gonna Be Me," the lilting melodious Richard Marx ballad "This I Promise You," Diane Warren's emotional "That's When I'll Stop Loving You," and the cover of Johnny Kemp's '98 dance smash, "Just Got Paid."

"Everything on this album is well thought out and put together," JC says. "There were no half steps. Every knob was tweaked. Every button pushed to make this the best sounding album it could be. A lot of my dreams were fulfilled in this album. Richard Marx was one of my idols growing up. The first song I ever sang in public was one of his."

The album also showcases JC's emergence as a songwriter and producer in the four hip hop influenced uptempo selections "Space Cowboy" (featuring TLC's Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes), "No Strings Attached," "Bring In The Noise," and "Digital Getdown."

"The songs that I did like "No Strings Attached," the idea just hit me overnight," JC says. "Space Cowboy" was just a sign of the times, with all the Y2K bug going on and everyone screaming millennium this, millennium that. I came up with a song which asked the question, 'If the world ended tomorrow, what would we do?' We'd be cowboys in outer space, we'd be exploring new frontiers. "Digital Getdown" is also a sign of the times. Technology is everywhere and the internet is the thing to do. It's about people hopping on line and hooking up with each other. "Bring In The Noise" was about a basketball game, what it's like as a basketball player playing the game."

'N SYNC, along with tour mates Sisco and Pink, kicked off a sold-out "No Strings Attached" stadium and arena national tour beginning May 9 in Biloxi, Mississippi, arriving in Joliet, Illinois on June 25 at the Route 66 Raceway and concluding July 30 in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

'N SYNC are also tentatively scheduled for a three-week European tour with label-mate, Britney Spears in October, which may lead to the possibility of a future collaboration with the pop diva.

In the meantime, the men of 'N SYNC will keep fans anxiously waiting in anticipation as they make preparations for the upcoming "No Strings Attached" second single and video release "It's Gonna Be Me."

Justin Randall Timberlake

Nickname: "Curly" due to his blond curls.

Age: 19

Birthdate: 1-31-81

Birthplace: Memphis, Tennessee

Current Residence: Lives in Orlando, Florida with his mother and fellow 'N Sync members JC and Chris.

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blond

Hobbies: Playing basketball, watching Orlando Magic games and dancing. "I'm a real party animal," Justin says. "When the others let me go to parties."

Musical Influence: Singer Brian McKnight

Musical Background: Was a member of the new Mickey Mouse Club.

Interesting Facts: He is the youngest member of the group. He and fellow 'N Sync group members practice at the band's rehearsal studio located in a old warehouse not far from his Orlando home. "It really exhausts you when you jump around four times a week for five hours in 90-degree heat," he says.

Current Endeavor: Appeared in the World of Walt Disney feature "Model Behavior," co-starring Maggie Lawson from "Party of Five" and started the Music Education Awareness Program - the Justin Timberlake Foundation.

James "Lance" Bass

Nickname: "Lansten"

Age: 21

Birthdate: 5-4-79

Birthplace: Laurel, Mississippi

Current Residence: Lives with his parents in Orlando, Florida.

Eyes: Green

Hair: Blond

Hobbies: Likes basketball, baseball and video games.

Musical Background: Not only is his last name Bass, but he sings bass as well.

Musical Preferences: Listens to everything "from Boys II Men to Offspring."

Personality: He is the shyest member of the group and describes himself as "rather laid back and addicted to harmony."

Interesting Fact: Earned his high school degree at age 17 through a tutorial program offered by the University of Nebraska.

Current Endeavor: Recently made his acting debut on the hit television series "7th Heaven" and has formed his own management company Freelance Entertainment.

Joshua "JC" Scott Chasez

Nickname: "JC"

Age: 23

Birthdate: 8-8-76

Birthplace: Washington, DC

Hometown: Bowier, Maryland

Current Residence: Lives in Orlando, Florida with Justin, Justin's mother and Chris.

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Brown

Hobbies: Likes to play football and watch his favorite team, the Washington Redskins.

Musical Preferences: Loves listening to "the jazzy and soulful sound between Billie Holiday and Stevie Wonder."

Musical Background: Served as one of the hosts of the new "Mickey Mouse Club" for four years.

Interesting Facts: Has two younger sisters and is sometimes called "Big Daddy" by the other 'N Sync members.

Current Endeavor: In addition to contributing songs and co-producing tracks on sophomore album, "No Strings Attached," JC's been writing and producing tracks for various artists including female trio Wild Orchid and Boyz and Girlz United.

Christopher "Chris" Alan Kirkpatrick

Nickname: "Chris"

Age: 28

Birthdate: 10-17-71

Birthplace: Clarion, PA

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Current Residence: Lives in Orlando, Florida with Justin, Justin's mother and JC.

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Hobbies: A big football fan.

Musical Influence: Discovered his singing ability when he joined the choir in college.

Musical Preferences: Varies from "Michael Jackson to hard-techno music....the most important thing is you get the groove."

Interesting Facts: He is the oldest member of the group, has great sense of humor and his favorite food is tacos.

Current Endeavor: Started a clothing, visual art and music production company called FuMan Skeeto.

Joseph "Joey" Anthony Fatone, Jr.

Nickname: "Joey"

Age: 23

Birthdate: 1-28-77

Birthplace: Brooklyn, New York

Current Residence: Lives in Orlando, FL with his parents and siblings.

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Hobbies: Flirting and anything to do with Superman.

Acting Background: Appeared in small roles in movies "Once Upon A Time In America" and "Matinee" and on TV series, "Sea Quest."

Musical Background: Sang in an a cappella group. "I feel most comfortable on stage," he says. "Or in front of the camera. No matter what I do, I go at it full-tilt and can't be stopped."

Interesting Facts: His ancestors were Italian and he loves pasta.

Current Endeavor: Produced an acting handbook for students, written by Karen Rugeria, his former drama coach in Orlando