

## Carmageddon giveaway: Free music to soothe the savage commute

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While many local entrepreneurs scheme to make a buck off Carmageddon II, Ken Elkinson is giving his stuff away for free.

Again.

Last year, the now 40-year-old composer offered gratis downloads of his 60-song, ambient instrumental cycle "Music for Commuting" over the Sepulveda Pass closure weekend.

Starting Friday, in honor of Carmageddon II, you can get 20 free songs from Elkinson's follow-up, "Music for Telecommuting," at [musicforcommuting.com](http://musicforcommuting.com). The giveaway continues until Oct. 31.

"This is a really good opportunity to give back to the people," said the father of three, who lives in Venice and works as a risk manager in Encino. "I love L.A., it's my favorite place to live. That's why I offered the entire box set for free for Carmageddon I, just to help people get through it."

Elkinson also acknowledged that it seemed like a good way to raise name-recognition in the hypercrowded world of DIY music making and marketing.

It worked. Nearly 2,300 people downloaded more than 120,000 free songs last year. About 100 of them also made donations through PayPal, which offset costs for designing and operating the promotion's website. The musician's back catalog, on [kenelkinson.com](http://kenelkinson.com), enjoyed increased sales as well.

Though his previous work was composed on piano, Elkinson came by the idea for his soothing synthesizer suites naturally enough - he lives and drives in L.A.

"I realized I was this really angry driver, and I needed something to relax me on the roads," he said. "I get angry with people going really, really slow, motorcycles weaving in between lanes, women putting on makeup with both hands, drivers shaving, eating, reading."

The 405 construction has taken his frustration to new levels.

"I'm so angry that there are no shoulders," Elkinson noted. "There's nowhere to pull over when you break down or have an accident for a mile or two at a time."

Elkinson said that if his music calms enough drivers to prevent a couple of accidents this weekend, he'll feel he's done his job.

But there are no warranties that "Music for Telecommuting" will do the trick for everybody.

"A lot of moms tell me it works with their kids in the car, but it doesn't work for mine," said Elkinson, who has 5-year-old twins and an eight-month-old. "And I do think I have well-behaved kids for the most part, but not in the car with me."

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Our staff will be tracking the latest about Carmageddon II on throughout the weekend on our live blog. Please help us keep track of the impact across the LA-area by sending us updates at <http://live.dailynews.com>.

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