



Napster Music Blog

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Ken Elkinson, *Music for Commuting, Vol. 1-6*

Guess where this guy's based? Heh heh, if you guessed Los Angeles, City of Angels amid a metallic sea of auto-covered pavement, you'd be right. Multi-instrumentalist [Ken Elkinson](#) has created a compositional series, [Music for Commuting](#), here compiled as Vols. 1-6. At first glance, you might take the title literally — other New Age artists have released material with the sole intent of traffic-frustration-ease, like [Steven Halpern's Drive Time Rx](#). But unlike Halpern's upbeat, borderline smooth-jazz offering, Elkinson's is a patient, expansive sound that can almost be seen as an embrace of surrounding environments, or simply a accompaniment to life's journey as a whole. Comparisons have been made to [Brian Eno's Music for Airports](#), though Elkinson has stated his influences come more from '80s synth-pop and [Pink Floyd](#). Overall, *Music for Commuting, Vol. 1-6* is an enjoyable synth-tastic ride full of effervescent, spacey, and exploratory etherea. And with tracks like "The Man with the Orange Shoes," "The Unforgiving Fog," and closer "Mission Accomplished?," Elkinson's nostalgic, slightly tongue-in-cheek, but austere sincere musical personality brims with a persistent likeability.