

= Infinity on High =

Infinity on High is the third studio album by American rock band Fall Out Boy , released on February 6 , 2007 by Island Records as the follow @-@ up to the band 's commercially successful 2005 album From Under the Cork Tree . Pre @-@ production began in the group 's hometown of Chicago , where writing and rehearsal sessions took place . It was recorded from July to October 2006 at the Pass Studios in Los Angeles , California and mixed at the Paramount Recording Studios in Hollywood . The music was composed by lead singer and guitarist Patrick Stump and the lyrics were penned by bassist Pete Wentz .

The album features collaborations with new producers and guest artists such as Babyface and Jay @-@ Z , and sees the band experimenting with musical genres other than pop punk including R & B , soul , and flamenco . The group also utilized instruments such as horns , violins and pianos , which had not been used on previous releases . As reported by Billboard , Fall Out Boy " drifts further from its pop punk roots to write increasingly accessible pop tunes , " a slight departure from the group 's previous sound . Critics felt that the lyrics served as a response to the band 's rise to fame . The group embarked on several tours to promote the album , including the Friends or Enemies Tour , the Honda Civic Tour , and the Young Wild Things Tour . In the wake of the album 's leak on the internet , the band included a download code for Leaked in London , a live extended play , with each purchase made during the first week of its initial release .

Infinity on High debuted at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 , selling 260 @,@ 000 copies in its first week , making it Fall Out Boy 's first number one album and second top ten effort . It also reached number one in New Zealand and opened inside the top five worldwide in countries including Canada , the United Kingdom and Australia . Infinity on High has sold over two million units worldwide , with 1 @.@ 4 million sales in the US as of February 2013 . Four of the album 's fourteen songs were released as singles , of which three charted on the Billboard Hot 100 , led by the lead single " This Ain 't a Scene , It 's an Arms Race " at number two . The album was certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) on March 12 , one month after its release , for shipments of one million copies . It received generally positive reviews from music critics , with many praising Stump 's vocals and the album 's new musical direction .

= = Background = =

After taking a two @-@ month break following the band 's Black Clouds and Underdogs tour in promotion of their 2005 album From Under the Cork Tree , Fall Out Boy returned to the studio to begin work on their follow @-@ up effort . The band began writing songs for the new album while touring , and intended to quickly make a new album in order to keep momentum in the wake of their breakthrough success . Vocalist Patrick Stump stated that he wished to begin working on the record earlier , but the group 's management urged the members to take time off to recuperate from their constant touring schedule .

The band 's label , Island Records , underwent changes while the group prepared to record , which postponed the studio schedule for three weeks . Bassist / lyricist Pete Wentz asserted that " We 're definitely writing all the time , so we 're not going to try to squeeze every last drop out of the stone . That 's part of what 's been wrong with the rock industry : they keep fans waiting far too long , and bands go away and disappear off the face of the planet . That 's not the way it 's going to be for Fall Out Boy . " During this time off , Fall Out Boy contributed a cover of the song " What 's This ? " for the 2006 rerelease of The Nightmare Before Christmas soundtrack , as well as a remix of their song " Of All the Gin Joints in All the World " for the Snakes on a Plane soundtrack . Wentz also purchased a house in Los Angeles , where he spent much time writing lyrics to new songs .

= = Recording and production = =

While writing the album , Fall Out Boy began searching for potential producers . The band sought out R & B singer / producer Babyface , as they admired his work on the soundtrack to the 2001 film

version of Josie and the Pussycats . Babyface saw one of the interviews in which the band discussed its desire to work with him and contacted the group . Babyface produced two of the songs , " I 'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I 'm Always Trying to Get You Off ( Me & You ) " and " Thnks fr th Mmrs " . Neal Avron , who also produced the band 's previous album , handled production for eleven of Infinity on High 's fourteen tracks . Before recording , the band began with six weeks of pre @-@ production , which was encouraged by Avron . This period included both rehearsals and writing , as well as working out all the sounds and arrangements . It began in Chicago before the group relocated to the Swing House studios in Los Angeles . Additionally , some rough recordings of songs were created to be used in the studio as a future reference .

Infinity on High was recorded from July to October 2006 at the Pass Studios in Los Angeles . Much of the writing process was done individually by the band members . Generally , Wentz would write his lyrics first and send them to Stump , who would create a melody by playing guitar along to the words to " find a groove " . Stump 's goal with his songs was to create his music while changing Wentz 's original lyrics as little as possible . After a melody was written , Stump would create a general rhythm for the song . Although Fall Out Boy has no specific rhythm or lead guitar roles , Stump viewed himself as more of a rhythm guitarist on the album due to his experience as a drummer in previous bands . Guitarist Joe Trohman often wrote his guitar parts after hearing Stump 's work , filling in the " empty spaces " in the songs with " tons of guitars and Johnny Marr @-@ type atmospheric parts " . The group felt that this writing process helped create a more full sound .

Upon listening to the finished tracks , the members selected guest appearances they felt would work with the songs . The group " aim [ ed ] for the stars " on its choices of collaborators , with Wentz stating , " I want to bring in people who no one would expect ... This year it 's like , we made some new friends , like Lil Wayne . Or let 's get Jay @-@ Z on there . " Wentz commented on working with Jay @-@ Z , saying " It was insane . We called him up and thought we were gonna talk to his assistant . Then he answers the phone , like , ' Yo , this is Hov , ' and we were like , ' Um ... ' It just happened like that . And it was pretty crazy . " Jay @-@ Z recorded his introduction to the album 's opening song " Thriller " while on tour in Australia and sent it to the band , who later put the vocal on the album . At a fashion show in Los Angeles , Wentz met rapper Kanye West , who invited Wentz and Stump to his home to share new music . West then agreed to create a remix of " This Ain 't a Scene , It 's an Arms Race " three weeks before the scheduled release of the album . The band was unable to include the remix on the album due to time constraints , but a remix of West 's version featuring Lil Wayne , Lupe Fiasco , Travis McCoy , Paul Wall and Tyga was released in July 2007 .

During the recording of the album , the band members pursued other various activities . Stump , who co @-@ produced " Don 't You Know Who I Think I Am ? " from Infinity on High , was also working on fellow Fueled By Ramen act The Hush Sound 's album Like Vines . Wentz was conceiving a social networking website called FriendsOrEnemies.com as well as designing for his clothing line , Clandestine Industries . Wentz was often interviewed about the album at Clandestine fashion shows .

= = Composition = =

= = = Music = = =

The album marked a departure in Fall Out Boy 's sound in which the band implemented a diverse array of musical styles . As reported by Billboard , Fall Out Boy " drifts further from its hardcore punk roots to write increasingly accessible pop tunes , " a slight departure from the group 's previous more pop punk sound . Infinity on High has been compared to the work of pop punk bands such as Green Day , with Ann Powers of the Los Angeles Times commenting , " Whatever snot and feedback courses through these songs , sweetness always triumphs , carried forth by bubblegum bass lines , snappy drums and tunes as comforting as lullabies . " Stump explained that the album contains a variety of different moods : " It 's one of those things where you get older as a band and you do your own thing ... The older Fall Out Boy elements , from the early records , are definitely

there , and this album is an extension of that . "

Stump called " This Ain 't a Scene , It 's an Arms Race " the " funkiest thing we 've ever done " , and attributes the change in musical style to his love of soul music , which he acquired by listening to oldies stations as a child . Wentz describes the song " a bit of ' 70s funk mixed with [ the band 's 2003 album ] Take This to Your Grave with tight verses and big , fat choruses " . The song closing sing @-@ along was influenced by Justin Timberlake 's " Señorita " . Cory Apar of Allmusic compared the Babyface @-@ produced track " I 'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I 'm Always Trying to Get You Off ( Me & You ) " to Maroon 5 . Wentz characterized Stump 's vocal performance on the song as " straight @-@ up Motown " , continuing to say " If there wasn 't a rock band playing , it 'd be straight R & B , and he 'd go on tour with just an upright bass and a drum and open up for R. Kelly . " " The Carpal Tunnel of Love " has been referred to as " a prime slab of what the boys have become famous for : highly caffeinated pop @-@ punk mixed with a little white @-@ boy soul and some hard @-@ core yelping . " The song features Stump singing in a falsetto in the chorus over Trohman 's " crunchy " guitars , as well as a breakdown in which Wentz employs death growl @-@ style vocals .

The band also used instruments that did not appear on previous albums , such as horns and violins . The members became more open to experimentation , but attempted to not over @-@ produce the album ; Stump stated that he " had to resist the temptation to use a lot of strings . " " Golden " consists exclusively of vocals and piano , and Stump dubbed the song " much softer than anything we 've ever done " . The group utilizes a full horn section on " I 've Got All This Ringing in My Ears and None on My Fingers " , a track which has been likened to Queen . Violins are used on both " Thnks fr th Mmrs " , in addition to an acoustic guitar strummed flamenco @-@ style , and " The ( After ) Life of the Party " , which also features electronic @-@ influenced sounds . Commenting on the instruments used on " Thnks fr th Mmrs " , Stump stated " I never thought I 'd get a euphonium onto a Fall Out Boy record " . " You 're Crashing , But You 're No Wave " features a gospel choir , while " Thriller " contains a spoken @-@ word intro from Jay @-@ Z. Barry Nicolson of NME referred to the song as a " towering , Foo Fighters @-@ esque slice of thunderous rhythm and radio @-@ friendly melody . "

= = = Lyrics = = =

While writing the album , Wentz drew lyrical inspiration from rapper Lil Wayne , whom he called " the best lyricist of [ 2006 ] . " Speaking of Infinity on High 's lyrical themes , Wentz stated , " On the last record , the lyrics were about ' This is where we 're going to be a year from now , and this is what you 're going to be saying about us . ' But this time , we realized that a lot of bands should spend less time running their mouths and more time writing their songs . " In 2013 , Wentz reflected , " on a record like Infinity on High , I feel like I tried really hard to explain my perspective ? and when I look back on it in hindsight I think it 's an extremely unrelatable record . Critics felt that much of the lyrics address the band 's rise to fame and the pressure of maintaining a loyal fanbase . Sasha Frere @-@ Jones of The New Yorker commented that " The only top @-@ ten acts that talk about fame as much as Fall Out Boy does are rappers , although their take on selling records is less conflicted . " Cory Apar of Allmusic opined that " Wentz ' lyrics are oftentimes resentful , full of fame @-@ induced angst , and really emphasize his need to drive home his position that stardom has not changed the band . "

" Thriller " serves as an autobiographical recap of the two years following From Under the Cork Tree 's release , referencing the band 's mediocre CD reviews and breakout success , as well as thanking their " diehard " fans . The song discusses the band 's Best New Artist Grammy loss , and Wentz calls it the " most narcissistic song on the album " . The line " Fix me in forty @-@ five " is a reference to the length of a therapy session . On " This Ain 't a Scene , It 's an Arms Race " , Wentz uses wartime @-@ inspired metaphors to discuss their newfound popularity ; he called the song " kind of a tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek look at the way we are so addicted and obsessed with new arts , cultures and loves ? to the point where it just becomes oversaturated . " " I 'm Like a Lawyer ... " has been described as " about as close to a love song as you 'll get from this band , a rare moment

of tenderness among songs about blog entries , guest lists , and therapy sessions . " In a tribute to the politicized Chicago hardcore scene , Wentz describes the story of a rigged court case of African @-@ American civil rights activist Fred Hampton , Jr. in " You 're Crashing , But You 're No Wave " . The song has been described as a " very well @-@ written track , a welcome respite from the one @-@ liners which permeate the majority of the record . "

= = Packaging and title = =

The album 's title is taken from a letter written by Vincent van Gogh to his brother Theo in 1888 , in which he describes his renewed health and the positive effect it has had on his painting . Originally written in Dutch , Van Gogh 's phrasing has been translated as " Be clearly aware of the stars and infinity on high . Then life seems almost enchanted after all " . Speaking of the title shortly after its announcement in November 2006 , Wentz stated " As for what that means in relation to the record , we 'll just let it unfold when people hear it . " While Wentz declined to reveal the relationship between the title and the album 's songs , MTV reporter James Montgomery opined that " It 's not difficult to see it as a statement about the band rising above detractors and finding strength within themselves . "

The photography for the album was done by Pamela Littky , and the sets on the album artwork were designed by Todd Fjelsted . Chuck Anderson of NoPattern designed the artwork for the album . A winged sheep is depicted on the cover of the album in a bedroom with the moon and stars in the background , while the inside of the CD booklet features " tarot card " designs with photos of each of the band members .

= = Promotion = =

Promotion for the album began in November 2006 with the band performing " This Ain 't a Scene , It 's an Arms Race " for the first time at the American Music Awards on November 21 . The song was shipped to radio the same night as the performance . In the week following the performance , the single was the top added track at Pop and Alternative radio . While the song was the first song revealed from the album , it would not receive an official single release until January 2007 . " The Carpal Tunnel of Love " was released as a digital promotional single in December 2006 . It was a minor hit in the United States , peaking at 81 on the Billboard Hot 100 . The band then began the Friends or Enemies Tour in January 2007 to build interest in the album . The tour consisted of intimate club shows in fifteen cities throughout the United States , with New Found Glory , The Early November , Permanent Me and Lifetime . Two weeks before Infinity on High was released , the album was leaked online , which led to rumors on the band 's message boards that the album would be released a week early . Although these rumors were incorrect , Fall Out Boy responded to the leak by including an exclusive live EP , Leaked in London , recorded in London 's Hammersmith Palais at their sold @-@ out show on January 29 , 2006 , with each purchase to encourage fans to buy the album . The EP could be downloaded from the band 's website between Tuesday , February 6 , 2007 and Tuesday , February 13 , 2007 using CDPass software along with inserting a physical copy of Infinity on High into the CD @-@ ROM drive of one 's computer . Infinity on High was the final release from Rabid Neurosis , a warez organization responsible for leaking 20 @,@ 000 albums before their release .

On February 6 , 2007 , the day of the album 's release , Fall Out Boy played three free shows , each in a different city in the United States . The day started with a morning performance in Times Square in New York City , followed by a gig in the band 's hometown of Chicago , and then a late @-@ night show in Los Angeles . In March 2008 , Fall Out Boy attempted to enter the The Guinness Book of World Records for being the only band to perform in all seven continents in nine months , planning to perform in Antarctica for an audience of scientists while working with Greenpeace to raise awareness about global warming . However , the group was unable to make the flight from Punta Arenas , Chile to Antarctica due to poor weather . Instead , Wentz and Stump went on to break the world record for the most interviews conducted by a duo in a 24 @-@ hour period , setting

the mark at seventy @-@ four .

To promote the album after its release , Fall Out Boy embarked on an extensive tour schedule , with concerts across the United States , Canada , Australia , New Zealand , South Africa , Europe and Asia . It began with the 2007 Honda Civic Tour with Paul Wall , + 44 , The Academy Is ... , and Cobra Starship . The tour was originally planned to begin on April 18 , 2007 but the band decided to postpone the date until May 11 , citing health issues and exhaustion . Wentz stated " It 's a health issue , but not a health issue that anyone needs to worry about . It 's not life @-@ threatening , it 's more about being overworked and worn down . " In honor of the tour , the group designed a custom Honda Civic Hybrid which was given away to a fan in a contest . Wentz described the tour as " our biggest show ever " , with Stump adding that " We 've been working really hard to make this show look and sound the best it 's ever been for Fall Out Boy . " For a Kiss @-@ inspired fan contest , Wentz 's brother created prints of images based on the record , created with ink mixed with the band members ' blood . The band gave away prints to winners at every stop on the Honda Civic Tour . Wentz hoped that the contest would serve to " [ shed ] some light on the much @-@ needed support for blood drives . " A live concert CD and DVD recorded at a show in Phoenix was later released in 2008 , entitled Live in Phoenix .

The band also headlined the Young Wild Things Tour , an international arena tour featuring Gym Class Heroes , Plain White T 's and Cute Is What We Aim For . Of the thirty one dates , twenty nine were in the US with two in Canada . The tour was inspired by Maurice Sendak 's 1963 children 's book Where the Wild Things Are , and included sets designed by artist Rob Dobi containing images from the book . Commenting on the decision to incorporate elements from the book , Wentz explained " Where the Wild Things Are is a great narrative . It encapsulates pretty much every FOB song ever written : You know , tantrums and monster islands and all . "

= = Singles = =

Four songs were released as singles from the album 's fourteen tracks , of which three charted on the US Billboard Hot 100 and all reaching international charts . Infinity on High was spurred on by the lead single " This Ain 't a Scene , It 's an Arms Race " , which became the highest charting song for band and their first to chart worldwide . Wentz commented on the band 's decision to pick " This Ain 't a Scene ... " as the first single , saying " There may be other songs on the record that would be bigger radio hits , but this one had the right message . " It was sent to radio weeks before its digital release in January 2007 ; upon digital release the track debuted and peaked at number two on the Hot 100 where it stayed at that position for two consecutive weeks , spending nine weeks in the top ten . The single sold 162 @,@ 000 digital downloads in its opening week , breaking various music industry records and becoming the highest debut of 2007 . With this total it was the largest opening @-@ week tally for a group since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking digital sales in 2003 and set a new record for the highest bow for a band since radio only titles joined the chart in 1998 . It also reached number one on the defunct @-@ Pop 100 , number one on Billboard Digital Songs and came at number eight on Alternative Songs . Internationally , " This Ain 't a Scene ... " debuted and peaked inside the top ten of many charts . It reached number one in New Zealand , number two in the UK , number four and Platinum status in Australia , number four on the Canadian Hot 100 and in Ireland , and placed at number nine on the European Hot 100 .

" Thnks fr th Mmrs " was released as the second single in the US in March 2007 . It peaked at number eleven on the Hot 100 with twenty @-@ eight chart weeks before it was retired . It came at number five on Digital Songs , but performed weaker on the Radio Songs chart at number forty . It reached the two @-@ million sales mark week ending December 27 , 2009 in the US . Its highest charting was in Australia where it peaked at number three on the Australian ARIA chart and achieved Platinum status in the region . In New Zealand , the UK , Canada and Ireland " Thnks fr th Mmrs " reached the top twenty .

" " The Take Over , the Breaks Over " " was released in August 2007 in the US as the third single and failed to chart on the Hot 100 , although it did reach number 48 on the UK Singles Chart , with its highest position at number seventeen in Australia , becoming the third consecutive top twenty hit

from *Infinity on High* in that region . The fourth and last single , " I 'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I 'm Always Trying to Get You Off ( Me & You ) " managed to reach number 68 in the US and made the top 30 in Australia . " The Carpal Tunnel of Love " was not an official single but it was leaked online by the band before *Infinity* 's release and was later given as an exclusive download to iTunes ; it managed to reach number eighty @-@ one on the Hot 100 .

= = Critical reception = =

*Infinity on High* received generally positive reviews from music critics , with many praising Stump 's vocals and the album 's new musical direction . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 75 , based on 23 reviews , which indicates " generally favorable reviews " . Jody Rosen of *Entertainment Weekly* gave the album an A- , commending the band 's " new sense of swing " on its R & B @-@ influenced songs and noting that Stump " has evolved into a superb frontman . " Dave de Silva of *Sputnikmusic* agreed about Stump 's new vocal style , saying that " his tone is smoother and more well @-@ rounded , he ? s cut out the borderline screechy high @-@ end which made parts of the previous album unlistenable and , though occasionally still nasally , his tones are far more varied and adaptable to different styles " as well as calling Wentz ' lyrics " as sharp as ever " . Andrew Blackie of *PopMatters* called the album " wildly exciting and experimental " and felt it greatly improved upon *From Under the Cork Tree* . Aaron Burgess of *The A.V. Club* enjoyed the disc 's new pop direction and felt that the songs that were more typical of Fall Out Boy 's original sound , such as " The Carpal Tunnel of Love " undermined the album 's potential . Sven Philipp of *Billboard* called *Infinity on High* a " shamelessly melodic , wild and powerful pop record " and referred to Stump as the album 's " true surprise " . The album was ranked No. 38 on *Q* 's 50 Best Albums of 2007 .

However , some critics felt that the album was overly ambitious and that the band 's musical departure may alienate listeners . Chad Grischow of *IGN* felt that the album 's dramatic hooks seem " bloated " at times : " The band does a great of focusing on what they do best , but the album does drown itself a bit with all the overwhelming enormity of it all . " Scott Shetler of *Slant* disliked the " melodramatic " undertones of " I 've Got All This Ringing in My Ears and None on My Fingers " and " Golden " , writing " they don 't handle that style quite as well as Panic ! at the Disco " . Cory Apar of *AllMusic* opined that the album 's pop direction contradicts the band 's lyrical claims of wishing to stick to their roots . He called the album 's various styles " hit and miss " , yet commented that " Once *Infinity on High* sinks in , it 's indeed a fun record . But for a band that was once so self @-@ assured and able to utilize its talents so compellingly , the album is regrettably haphazard . " Caroline Sullivan of *The Guardian* believed that the album was overly sullen , but noted that " They may not be happy , but they haven 't forgotten to be catchy . " Barry Nicholson of *NME* found the amount of guest producers to be unnecessary and disliked some of the songs , but admired the album 's " infectious " nature .

= = Chart performance = =

*Infinity on High* was a major commercial success , debuting at number one on the US *Billboard* 200 chart , with first week sales of 260 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , according to Nielsen SoundScan . *Infinity* has sold 1 @.@ 4 million copies in the US to date February 2013 . It was the band 's first US number one album and second consecutive top ten effort , as its previous release , *From Under the Cork Tree* , peaked at number nine . The album spent its first six weeks in the top ten , out of a total of fifty two chart weeks . *Infinity on High* also opened at number one on *Billboard* 's Rock Albums , Tastemaker Albums , and Digital Albums charts , with over 27 @,@ 000 digital sales making up the total first week tally . In its second week , it fell to number five on the *Billboard* 200 , selling 119 @,@ 000 copies with a 54 % decline during a post @-@ Grammy week . The album rose to number three in its third week with 79 @,@ 000 units sold . In its fourth week , the disc slipped to number four and sold 67 @,@ 000 copies . *Infinity on High* 's sales again fell in its fifth week , moving 58 @,@ 000 copies and descending to number eight on the chart . In its sixth

and last week in the top ten it fell to number nine and sold 43 @,@ 000 copies . In April 2007 , the album was certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , denoting the shipment of one million copies . It finished the year at number twenty @-@ one on IFPI 's list of the " Top 50 Global Best Selling Albums of 2007 " . Infinity on High has shipped over two million copies worldwide .

The album also charted inside the top five worldwide , making it the band 's most successful and breakthrough album internationally . Infinity on High charted all over Europe , debuting at number eight on Billboard 's European Albums chart . In Australia , it debuted at its peak of number four on the Australian ARIA Albums Chart . It remained on the Australian chart for a total of fifty weeks , spending its first seven weeks in the top ten . In its 31st chart week it broke into the top ten again where it remained for another six weeks in a row , accumulating a total of thirteen weeks in the top ten . The CD was certified Double Platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) , denoting shipments of 140 @,@ 000 copies . Infinity on High debuted at number one in New Zealand , and remained at the top position for six consecutive weeks , logging a total of thirty @-@ seven chart weeks , making it the fifth longest chart sitter on the New Zealand charts in 2007 . After marking its first twelve weeks in the top ten , it went on to spend a combined total of twenty @-@ six weeks inside the top twenty and received a Platinum accreditation from the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) for 15 @,@ 000 shipments . In the United Kingdom , the album debuted at number three with 64 @,@ 054 first week sales and made nine weeks in the top twenty , being certified Platinum by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for 300 @,@ 000 units shipped . It went on to sell 446 @,@ 807 in the UK to date January 2015 . The album debuted at number two in Canada with 21 @,@ 000 first week sales . Infinity was certified Platinum by Music Canada for shipments of 100 @,@ 000 units . In Ireland , the record peaked at number six according to the Irish Recorded Music Association with fourteen weeks within the top twenty , and also went Platinum there . After entering the French albums chart at number 64 , Infinity on High reached its peak of number 17 and held on for 64 weeks in the top 150 .

= = Track listing = =

All lyrics written by Pete Wentz , all music composed by Fall Out Boy .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =