

## AKB48 (Akihabara48)

TEAM A1st Stage "PARTY ga Hajimaru yo"

DEFSTAR Records

DFCL-1351

DURATION: 49:59

RELEASE DATE: March 7, 2007

01. Overture
02. PARTY ga hajimaru yo
03. Dear my teacher
04. Doku RINGO wo tabesasete
05. Skirt, Hirari
06. Classmate
07. Anata to Christmas Eve
08. Kiss wa dame yo
09. Hoshi no Ondo
10. Sakura no Hanabira tachi
11. Aozora no Soba ni ite
12. AKB48

On March 7th was the big release day for AKB48 (Akihabara 48) who released a total of six albums.

For many of you, you may be wondering who is AKB48? They are the latest project of Akimoto Yasushi, who was involved in producing the very large idol group Onyanko Club in the 80's and inspired Tsunku to create Hello! Project (Morning Musume and many other sub-groups).

But what makes this different compared to Hello! Project and Girl's BOX activities is that AKB48 is a theater group of young female performers.

Each who have auditioned among thousands of girls to be part of this theater group and perform once every day and twice every weekend at the 8th floor of Don Quixote in Akihabara.

Because these girls are young, go to school and can't perform everyday, thus the reason for so many girls. And to group them on their skills, there are three groups. Team A, K and B.

And with each CD single release, unlike other idol groups, every release features may feature different girls, different number of people performing and so forth.

Not sure if the AKB48 project will be successful without a TV tie-in but their fanbase is growing

The six albums released on March 7th features three albums spotlighting music from Team A and Team K.

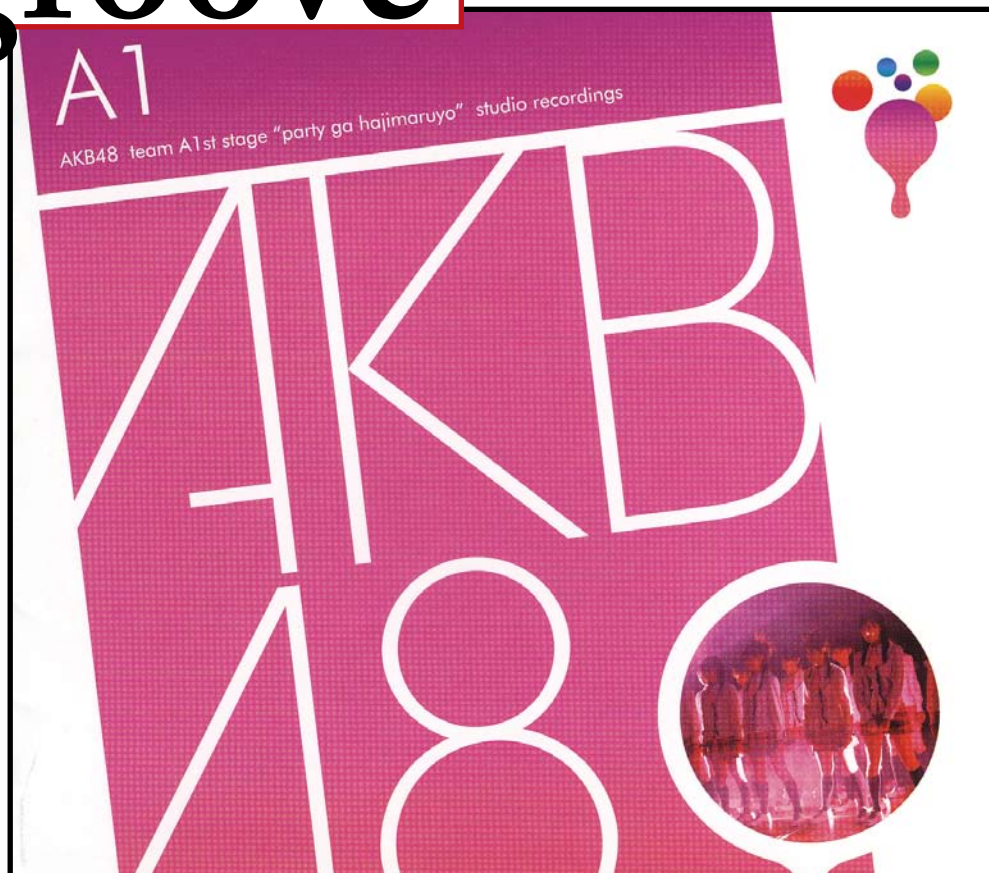
With that being said, "TEAM A 1st Stage "PARTY ga Hajimaru yo" features songs from the AKB48's first two CD singles "Sakura no Hanabiratachi" (DAKAKB-101, rel. Feb. 1, 2006) and the coupling song "Dear my teacher". Also, "Skirt, Hirari" (DAKAKB-102, rel. June 7, 2006) which was coupled with "Aozora no Soba ni ite".

With the first album nearly identical for both teams, 2nd Stage and 3rd Stage is where each album tracks differ and feature songs performed at their shows.

AKB48's music can be described as similar to idol girl's pop from the 80's. Where many girls sing in unison for the complete song, where most idol girls group, each member has a certain part in the song.

AKB48's music is very catchy and enjoyable and for idol music fans, they either love the idol pop genre or love the girls behind the music..

— DENNIS A. AMITH



## < It's all idol girl group pop music. Love it or hate it.

Six simultaneous album releases from the growing idol girl pop/theater group known as AKB48.

## IT'S TEAM K'S TURN.

The second group of AKB48, TEAM K

### AKB48

TEAM K1st Stage "PARTY ga Hajimaru yo"

DEFSTAR Records

Duration: 49:11

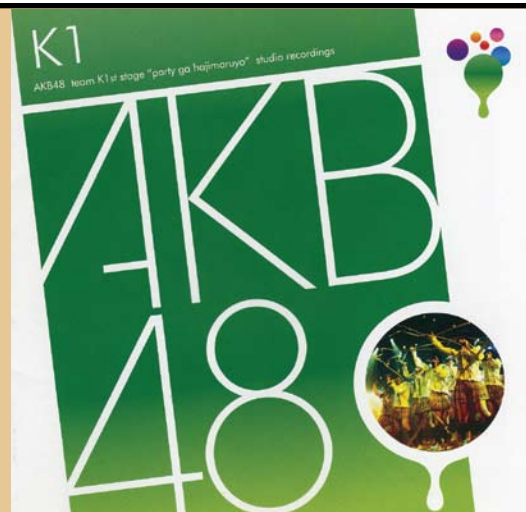
12 tracks total

Very similar to my review of AKB48's TEAM A1's Stage "PARTY ga Hajimaru yo" album comes TEAM K.

The tracklisting for the 1st stage for TEAM K is nearly identical but doesn't have "Anata to Christmas Eve" and in its place is "Skirt, Hirari (Encore ver.).

I actually wanted to see how different they are from each other, so I had one computer playing the song "AKB48" from TEAM A and another playing the version from TEAM K and noticed that TEAM K has performers with higher pitched voices.

But that was pretty much the only difference and since the release of these albums, DEFSTAR has pumped more AKB48 merchandise for the fans including 5 DVD releases on March 21st and more CD singles and a photo book



prior to the six album releases.

If you like idol girl pop and where there is no soloist, just all girls singing all at once in unison, then AKB48 is definitely for you.

The albums are well-produced and everyone sounds so in tune with each other on the albums.

So, if you are looking for an idol group to follow, AKB48 might be your thing.

For more information on AKB48, please visit their official website at: [www.akb48.co.jp](http://www.akb48.co.jp)