

netBloc Vol. 9:

LO-FI

ADVENTURES
ON PLANET RHETON!

netBloc Vol. 9:

LO-FI

ADVENTURES

ON PLANET RHETON!

or...

**THE DAY THAT
THE PHANTOM PLANET
BECAME THE LO-FI
BATTLEPLAYGROUND
OF FRED FOOTE AND
THE MINI PEOPLE**

Volume 9 and Janet said it best – “It’s all about control”

Hello again everyone. After a month off, I was eager to unleash volume 9 to the world. As the title suggests, it’s focused on “lo-fi” offerings that the world of net audio has to offer. Lo-fi as a description for music is kind of vague and can include many genres. Personally, I define lo-fi as any music without slick production – music that can contain distorted samples or distortion itself applied to any number of song elements. In fact, distortion becomes an advantage in the wonderful world of lo-fi. Lo-fi can also mean nothing more than merely a home recording on cheap equipment. Here I present 10 lo-fi gems for you to chew on for the next month. Enjoy them. Leave a review at our Archive.org release page.

Now on to other things. This month has proved to be quite the shake up for the bloated music industry. I’ve been saying all along that the industry is in bad shape, much thanks to it’s narrow-minded greedy outlook on what place music has in this world. To them, the collective music industry, music is a commodity. To music lovers – it’s art, it’s love, it’s so much more than a mere object to be bought and sold. This outlook is at the core of why the industry just doesn’t “get it”. Thanks to their not “getting it”, some major artists who have been part of that very same industry are seceding from it to go it alone.

Does Radiohead, Madonna, Nine Inch Nails, Oasis, Jamiroquai or The Charlatans ring a bell? Probably so. What do they have in common? They are all releasing their music independently. Now, independent is not such a revolutionary thing in itself. There have long been artists who have gone it independently, on smaller labels. What’s different now is that these artists are going a completely different route. Most are letting the fans decide how much to pay or giving away their music. Madonna is of course not so revolutionary in her move. She’s splitting from her long time label Warner Brothers and will release her music via a concert promotion company which will most likely allow her to keep a much larger portion of her sales. The key here is control. All artists have chosen to control how much or how little they stand to make from their music. No more will they be subjected to percentage points and losing their publishing. However, this isn’t a new idea either. Prince did it in ‘96. Public Enemy did it in ‘99. The difference now? In ‘96 and in ‘99, Prince and PE were both forging new roads, they both had to struggle to build their independent situations. It would appear at the surface that Prince gave up and entered back into bed with the majors... though when you look closer, his current situation is one of a controlling position and quite a unique position at that. He keeps a larger piece of the pie and keeps his publishing. He even chose to give away his album “Planet Earth” in the UK with copies of Daily Mail’s Sunday edition! He was able to forge a new controlling situation for himself. Other artists are not Prince and thus will need to venture out on their own and stay on their own for it to work for them. So again, how is today different? In 2007, artists have a lot less to lose. The industry is ever increasingly singles-driven and no longer promotes albums or longevity. It’s all about pumping the latest crop of music product out to the promotion machine. That means that artists that are barely a year old are already finding they can’t get proper promotion. Imagine artists who have been around for more than a couple years! It’s gotten to a point that artists can promote themselves better and cheaper on their own.

It now looks as though it's a wiser move to be independent than it is to try and get a "record deal". Some are saying that it's only possible for them to make it because they already have a fan base. True, that is an advantage. However there are artists who are relatively unknown who have been doing what Radiohead is currently doing for a while now. Josh Woodward who you can find featured on netBloc Vol. 8 is one artist in particular who has noticed a marked increase in CD sales since he started allowing the buyer to set his/her price.

It again all comes down to an infrastructure. A way for music lovers to simplify the process of finding the best music that the net has to offer. Once this infrastructure is in place, the naysayers will be wanting a piece of the pie.

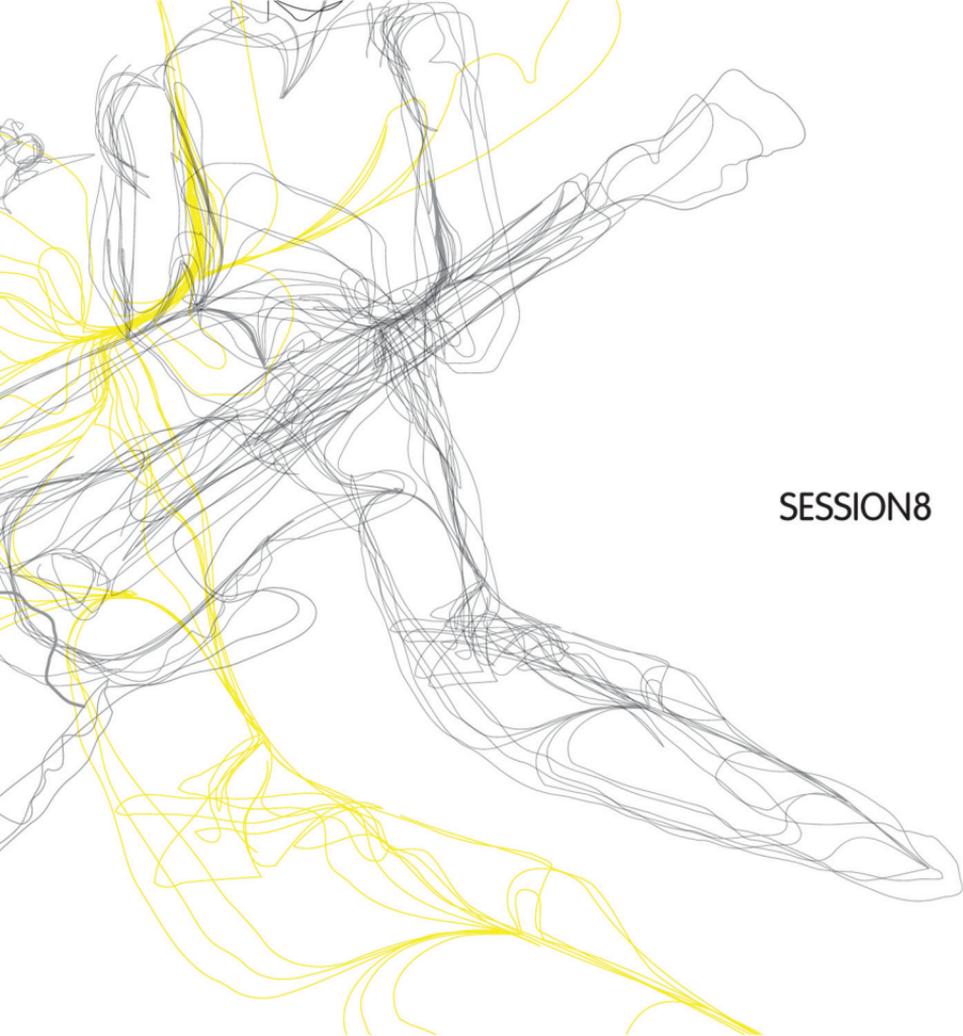
In the meantime, I for one am enjoying seeing the greedy music industry splinter and implode.

Enjoy netBloc Vol. 9! Thanks again to all participating artists/labels! Thanks to all of you who continue to come back for more net audio gems every month!

Peace
Mike Gregoire
Owner/Creator blocSonic.com

01 - The Unfinished Sympathy - Teenage Kicks (2:45)
(from the BCore release 'This Living Kills' and Tribute To John Peel 'Session #8')





SESSION8



Photo used courtesy of The Unfinished Sympathy

Written by: **The Undertones**

Arranged by: **The Unfinished Sympathy**

Produced by: **Santi Garcia and The Unfinished Sympathy**

Performed by:

Vocals and guitar: **Eric Fuentes**

Drums: **Pablo Salas**

Guitar: **Oriol Casanovas**

Bass: **Vaxi Navarro**

Recorded at: **Ultramarinos Costa Brava Studios, Sant Feliu De Guixols**

Year: **2004**

Release URL: <http://www.archive.org/details/jpt888>

Artist URLs:

<http://www.theunfinishedsympathy.com>

<http://myspace.com/theunfinishedsympathy>

<http://www.subterfuge.com>

<http://www.bcoredisc.com>

Netlabel: **Tribute to John Peel**

Netlabel URL: <http://www.tributetojohnpeel.org/>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>

Teenage Kicks

Influential UK DJ John Peel once called The Undertones' original the perfect single and was his favorite song of all time. If he would have had a chance to hear The Unfinished Sympathy's arrangement of this great track... perhaps it would have surpassed The Undertones' version. Who knows. Whatever the case may be, in my opinion The Unfinished Sympathy have done what's rarely done when covering a song, their version surpasses the original. The energy level of The Unfinished Sympathy's version gives it that extra punch that the original lacks. Welcome this track to your heavy-rotation bin... it will be there a while.

The Unfinished Sympathy

The Unfinished Sympathy are a modern rock band inspired by diverse influences such as emo/indie 90's bands, 80's pop, and classic

hard rock, like a combination of Jets To Brazil, The Police and Van Halen. They started in 2000 with a demo that came to the hands of BCORE, which quickly signed them up. First album "The unfinished sympathy" in 2001 had such a good response that led them to their first Spanish and European tours, including the recording of a John Peel Session at London's BBC, being the first Spanish band ever to be invited to the show, by John himself. An extensive European tour with American band Joshua, a German tour with label mates Maple and support for Jimmy Eat World and Bad Religion led them to their second album, "An investment in logistics" in 2003. It reached Top 1 at main Spanish indie newspaper Mondo Sonoro, and number 3 for Rock Sound in their annual polls, and started to appear on the covers of specialised magazines. Another exhaustive German tour and a second visit to the BBC studios to record another John Peel Session were quickly followed by their third album, "Rock for food" (2004) which also reached Top 1, this time for Rock Sound, and number 2 for Mondo Sonoro. Before that, the advance single "This living kills" had such a big acclaim thanks to the awarded 35mm video and the cover of Undertones' classic "Teenage kicks", conceived as a gift for their friend John Peel. A second single was released some months later including some tracks in acoustic format, recorded live at the auditorium of "La Pedrera" building by Antoni Gaudi. After having toured for months, the band entered the studio to record the new songs for their fourth long-play, "We push you pull", in summer 2006. Line-up changes (entering Iban Puigfel, former member of Abraxas, The Eyes or Cube, and Joan Colomo, member of Zeidun and La Célula Durmiente) and a whole year touring, plus the release of a digital-only EP with remixes of their smash hit "Spin in the rye", led them to nowadays. The first leg of the tour ended at the most important spanish festival, the Festival Internacional de Benicassim (FIB) with a huge success. The band is planning the recording of their fifth album at Radiostar Studios, Weed (California), plus a Californian tour in springtime 2008.

Tribute To John Peel

John Peel's early demise was a very sad event and left a huge gap unlikely to be filled. An immensely influential voice in the world of music is now mute.

John Peel managed to share his passion with a wide audience for decades, discovering hundreds of artists regardless of genre. His support gave exposure to unknown acts and started careers which would not have been without him, championing music for its quality rather than commercial viability.

This website was created to pay him a due tribute and to modestly try to carry on what he started: giving exposure to talent. We want to believe he would have approved a musical tribute giving a chance to emerging artists, something he did during his whole life.

We hope you appreciate what you will find.

02 - Chapi Chapo & Les Petites
Musiques de Pluie - Horse On A Rock (3:12)
(from the Error! Lo-Fi release 'Ar miziou du' lofi12)



Chapi & les petites
Chapo musiques
de pluie

"an miziou du"

Written, produced and performed by: **Chapi Chapo & Les Petites Musiques de Pluie** (LN Le Corre & Marina Le Guennec)

Recorded at: **Saint-Eloy, France**

Year: **2007**

Release URL: <http://www.error-lofi.com/lofi2.htm>

Artist URLs:

<http://chapimusic.free.fr/>

<http://www.myspace.com/chapichapooo>

Netlabel: **Error! Lo-Fi**

Netlabel URL: <http://www.error-lofi.com>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.1/es/>

Horse On A Rock

Lovely bilingual vocals, musical toys, melody and humor all combined to make a wonderfully indescribable song.

Chapi Chapo & Les Petites Musiques de Pluie

Ukulele, musical saw, toy piano and others musical toys for childish and melancholic music.

Error! Lo-Fi

Error! Lo-Fi Recordings is a free netlabel from Barcelona whose artists develop a lo-fidelity sound always keeping the emotive and melancholic sense. A way to show people and the world the new talents of the experimental underground scene.



03 - Sebastián Kramer - Perdon (4:40)
(from the independent release 'La Futura Mirada Del Ex Tenista')



A close-up photograph of a red clay tennis court surface. A white boundary line runs horizontally across the middle of the frame. The clay is a rich, reddish-brown color with a granular texture. The white line is slightly worn and has some clay particles on it.

SEBASTIAN KRAMER LA FUTURA MIRADA DEL EX TENISTA



Photo used courtesy of Sebastián Kramer

Written and produced by: **Sebastián Kramer**

Performed by:

Sebastián Kramer

Bass: **Juan Stewart**

Recorded at: **Sebastián's bedroom, Barcelona and Estudio El Arbo, Buenos Aires**

Year: **2005**

Release URL:

<http://www.archive.org/details/sr007>

<http://estamosfelices.com.ar/discos/ef005/>

Artist URL:

<http://extenista.blogspot.com/>

Label: **Estamos Felices**

Label URL: <http://estamosfelices.com.ar>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>

Perdon

A soft, airy gem of a song. If you enjoyed the soundtracks to “Lost In Translation” or any Wes Anderson film, you’ll love this one and no doubt love his complete album.

Sebastián Kramer

Sebastián Kramer played guitar in the first three albums of the argentinian indie band Jaime Sin Tierra during the mid nineties. Not quite known or recognised at their time, they influenced a lot of new bands and have become a cult band in Argentina. After leaving the band Sebastián moved to Barcelona and there he recorded his first album “La Futura Mirada Del Ex Tenista”.

04 - Louis Lingg and The Bombs - Conspiracy (2:49)
(from the independent release 'Long live the anarchist revolutionaries!')





**LOUIS
LINGG**
AND THE **BOMBS**

CONSPIRACY



©lasidd-2007-

Photo used courtesy of Louis Lingg and The Bombs

Written and produced by: **Joshua Hudes**

Performed by:

Guitar and vocals: **Joshua Hudes**

Drums: **Jerome Genivlet**

Bass and vocals: **Rudi Pourri**

Guitar and vocals: **Ben Flob**

Keyboards: **Clemence Grange**

Recorded at: **Joshua's living room**

Year: **2006**

Release URL: <http://www.jamendo.com/fr/album/2889/>

Artist URL:

<http://www.myspace.com/louislinggandthebombs>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/nc-sampling+/1.0/>

Conspiracy

Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! The first track in this compilation's politically charged subcompilation/psa. An interesting song from an equally interesting group. Is your life a lie? Do you read between the lines? Do you trust your government?

Louis Lingg and The Bombs

LOUIS LINGG AND THE BOMBS are from Paris, France. They deal in explosive anarchic bang bang boom boom punk rock, throwing pop bombs and fizz while they fly their black flags. They formed in the summer of 2006. The band are named after Louis Lingg, the renowned Chicago anarchist who committed suicide on death row in 1887 — go read your history books, fascinating story. Some of their songs are ultra-political anarchist punk rock anthems and some of their songs are like children's nursery rhymes. ALL of their songs are full of pop hooks and melodies that are sung with energy and commitment to the cause of REVOLUTION!

05 - Microtonner - George II (4:03)
(from the Laridae release 'The Ignorance EP' laridae004)



MICROTONNER

THE IGNOGRANCE ep

01 dr. fred (3:29) 02 george II (4:04) 03 frequency (3:50)

04 not only one (4:28)

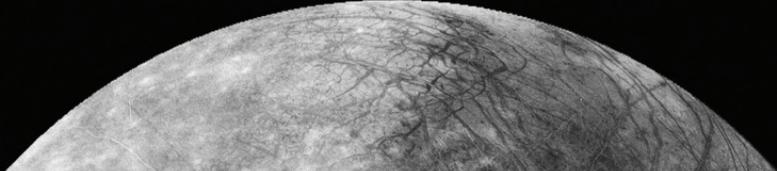


Photo used courtesy of Microtonner

Written and produced by: **Microtonner**

Performed by:

Programming and noise: **Paul**

Programming and noise: **Martin**

Recorded at: **Microtonner's basement**

Year: **2004**

Release URL: <http://www.laridae.at/releases.php?id=10&start=30>

Artist URL: <http://www.microtonner.com/>

Netlabel: **Laridae**

Netlabel URL: <http://www.laridae.at/>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/de/>

George II

A foreboding sound for an equally foreboding time in American history. Microtonner returns to grace our compilation series with another engaging track.

Microtonner

MICROTONNER are **PAUL PROLL** and **MARTIN BAUMANN** from Austria. The roots of this 1997 founded band are not electronic industrial sounds, like on there latest works, they started very classical with bass, drums and guitar.

As a long-term cooperation with other musicians failed, microtonner had to change their tactics. By gradually electronic assembling they started to compensate the disadvantage of a two men business. The consequence was a massive change of sound. Because of this development and a lot of hard work, Microtonner became a live-able project.

Laridae

[la-ri-dä] is a netlabel, that means we distribute music via the internet. and we do this for free. why? because it's the best and easiest way to make **YOU** listen to it.

We try to provide a wide range of styles, everything from idm/indietronics to rock/industrial, defining ourselves as a kind of counterpart to the other 95% of netlabels, which are providing hardly anything but minimal dub-house stuff.

The story: The label was founded in spring 2004 but most of the artists got to know each other earlier in the fm4-soundpark (an online music community thing made up by the local radio-station FM4). but as the possibilities to release music there are limited to a single track once a month or so, we decided to make something on our own. so we founded a netlabel, laridae (named after a track by photophob).

06 - Earl Grey and The Legomen - Britain in the Rain (3:15)
(from the independent release 'Plooms of Doom')





and the Legomen

Carl Grey and The Legomen

Carl Grey
The Legomen

and the Legomen

Carl Grey and the Legomen

Carl Grey and th

Carl Grey and the Legomen



Photo used courtesy of Jennifer Spencer

Written by:

Lyrics: John Gallagher

Music: Earl Grey and The Legomen

Produced by: Earl Grey and The Legomen

Performed by:

Vocals and Sampler: John Gallagher

Lead Guitar: Jay Gallagher

Rhythm Guitar and Backing Vocals: Tommy Jones

Keyboards: Kev Murphy

Bass Guitar: Tom Halligan

Recorded by:

Recorded at: The Gallagher brothers' attic, Liverpool, UK.

Year: 2006

Release URL: <http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/5413/>

Artist URL: <http://www.myspace.com/eglm>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Britain in the Rain

While America's government is in a downward spiral toward fascist-like tendencies, it's ally Britain is also finding itself slipping into "big brother" territory. Here to speak about current affairs from a UK point of view, Earl Grey and The Legomen expound on the dark cloud that's growing darker on planet Earth.

Earl Grey and The Legomen

Earl Grey and The Legomen are a 5-piece electro-indie-rap group from Liverpool, UK.

Formed in late 2006, the band was originally comprised of the Gallagher brothers, Jones, and Murphy – with Halligan joining as bassist after the first few gigs in early 2007. The band quickly gained a reputation for innovative music – combining rap and dance beats with riff-based melodic guitar music and vocal harmonies. Live, the band have had rave reviews, with one reviewer describing them as "Joy Division on top of Run DMC below My Chem by means of Dizzee with a little Klaxons on the side", and

“the most ground breaking, genre-crossing phenomenon since Enter Shikari”. They have been known to cause confusion with many promoters, who have billed them as electro, metal, and indie-rock on completely separate occasions. (Full review at <http://shoutandtivist.blogspot.com/2007/04/earl-grey-and-lego-men.html>)

The band also have an alter-ego side project, called Early Graves and The Last Minutes, which is a live dub-step band. When the occasion calls for it, they like to darken the mood by swapping out some of the more up-beat Earl Grey songs for the more disturbing, haunting sound of Early Graves.



07 - Monk Turner - We're Going To Take Back America (4:12)
(from the independent release 'New American Songbook')



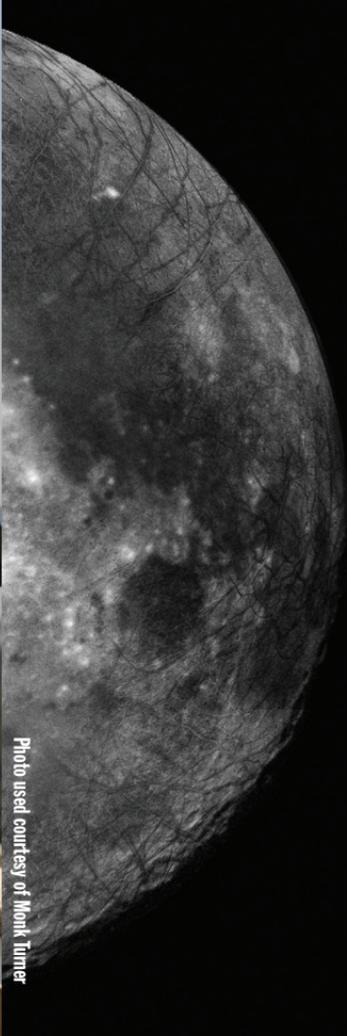


Photo used courtesy of Monk Turner

Written by: **Beniamino 'Monk' Turner and Marcel Camargo**

Produced by: **Chad Bloomstien**

Performed by:

Vocals, bass & kazoo: **Monk**

Drums, guitar & vocals: **Marcel Camargo**

Recorded at: **Fairmona Studios, North Hollywood, California, USA and The Bloom Room, Sherman Oaks, CA, USA**

Year: **2006**

Release URL: <http://www.archive.org/details/newamericansongbook>

Artist URL: <http://www.myspace.com/monkturner>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/>

We're Going To Take Back America

On the surface, a bit brighter than the previous three tracks in the sub-compilation/psa, but it's rooted in the same issues caused by globalization as is the so-called "War on Terror". A fun track, yes... a serious track...yes.

Monk Turner

Monk Turner does not write songs. He writes albums. If you only listen to a song or two, you're missing the point.

Monk began his music career in the early 1990s as a principal songwriter for several groups. It was during this Dark Age that "The Hit Single" phenomenon began to decimate popular music.

Having his own soul saved by rock 'n' roll (think Pink Floyd's 'The Wall', The Who's 'Tommy' and Rush's '2112') Monk has dedicated his life to becoming a galactic defender of the Concept Album.

08 - Gorowski - Of The Sky (3:51)
(from the WM Recordings release 'Simulators can' WM067)





GOROWSKI
simulator's can

GOROWSKI
simulator's can

GOROWSKI
simulator's can

GOROWSKI
simulator's can

Written, produced and performed by: Gorowski

Recorded at: Unknown Premises

Year: 2007

Release URL: <http://www.wmrecordings.com/releases/wm067.htm>

Artist URL: <http://www.myspace.com/djgorowski>

Netlabel: WM Recordings

Netlabel URL: <http://www.wmrecordings.com>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>

Of The Sky

This one has an electronic groove so deep and a rhythm so strong you'll curse your legs when they spontaneously force you to dance around your office and tear you away from your important work. Damn you legs!

Gorowski

Gorowski has been dabbling in electronic music production for around 5 years, after a long DJing career in the sunny town of Hull, UK.

He began DJing and promoting club nights in 1990, and was one of the first promoters to stage live performances from Fila Brazillia, at the Silhouette Club in Hull (1992/3).

Gorowski maintained contact with the Pork Recordings stable for the next decade and now DJs with the '(in)famous' Porky at the Vibe Bar in London. Gorowski and Porky run a monthly Friday night called 'Larkin Out' which has been voted 'Critics Choice' by London's Time-Out magazine on a number of occasions. The night provides Gorowski with an opportunity to play and test out some of his tuneage.

WM Recordings

WM Recordings is a netlabel operating from Heerlen, the Netherlands. WM Recordings brings you music that is a little "different". We do not specialize in one style, but instead bring you exciting sounds that you're not likely to find anywhere else. We started in autumn 2004 and have released more than 50 free CDs since then. While our catalogue of free releases expands we also release music on iTunes and eMusic.



09 - Dudley - The Flower That Eats the Moon (4:12)
(from the Autres Directions In Music release 'Seasonal L.P.' moulin002)





dudley. seasonal l.p

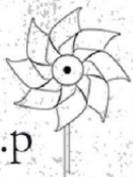




Photo used courtesy of Dudley

Written, produced and performed by: **Stéphane Bossard**

Recorded at: **Stéphane's home**

Year: **2003**

Release URL:

http://autresdirections.net/inmusic/article.php3?id_article=6

Artist URL: <http://myspace.com/dudleysafeasmilk>

Netlabel: **Autres Directions In Music**

Netlabel URL: <http://www.autresdirections.net/inmusic/>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/fr/>

The Flower That Eats the Moon

Just to keep the party moving and to keep you from your work... here's another one that will not give your dancing legs a break. I curse you legs!

Dudley

I've been making music for 15 years, 'Seasonal L.P.' is comprised of songs composed at home between january & october 2003 (except 'Little Whirl' which is older). All instruments except the bass on Kashcut (which is played by Emmanuel Domingos) is played, sampled and programmed by myself. After the inclusion of two tracks on autres directions' webzine, Stéphane Colle (autres directions in music headmaster) asked me to be part of the adim project. Conquered by the principle of the label (tracks and covers free to download...) and by the enthusiasm of its founder. I made a track, "Pure Panda" for a german hiphop compilation called "Projekt Klischee" for the NBP label and also worked with Melodium on two songs on his "La tête qui flotte" album.

Autres Directions In Music

Autres Directions In Music is a weblabel and a label.

10 - Schau - I Was Someone (4:30)
(from the Laridae release 'First Takes for Dark Hours' laridae006)





SCHAU

first takes for dark hours

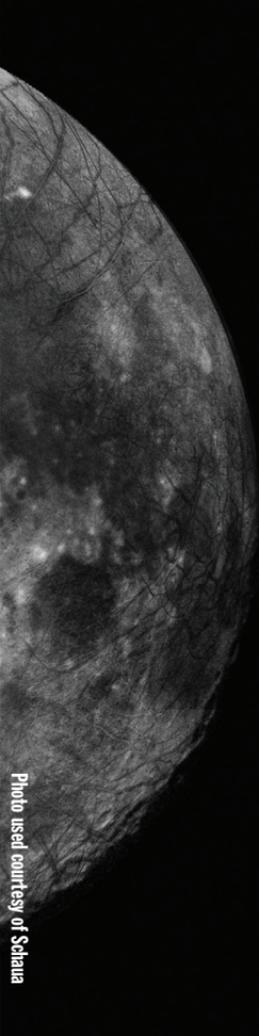


Photo used courtesy of Schiana

Written, produced and performed by: **Schaua**

Recorded at: **Schaua's home**

Year: **2004**

Release URL: <http://www.laridae.at/releases.php?id=8&start=20>

Artist URLs:

<http://schaua.at.tt>

<http://www.myspace.com/schaua>

Netlabel: **Laridae**

Netlabel URL: <http://www.laridae.at/>

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/de/>

I Was Someone

If you were once someone, you'll relate. If you weren't don't worry... you will be. If not, at least you'll have this genius of a track to hold on to. Schaua's electronic music will bring a smile to your ears and remind you that great music is free.

Schaua

Schaua was born in 1981. Makes music in a lot of different styles. He's a member of dot.matrix with stereo sound (www.dotmatrix.at), a gameboy band. Is a member of the gameboymusicclub (www.gameboymusicclub.org), a loose collective of musicians producing music on a gameboy with a monthly club in the Viennese venue rhiz. Founded the musikarbeiterkapelle (www.musikarbeiterkapelle.at.tt), a brass band with marching abilities usually publishes at the netlabel laridae (www.laridae.at). He also has his own website (www.schaua.at.tt).

Laridae

[la-ri-dä] is a netlabel, that means we distribute music via the internet. and we do this for free. why? because it's the best and easiest way to make YOU listen to it.

We try to provide a wide range of styles, everything from idm/indietronics to rock/industrial, defining ourselves as a kind of counterpart to the other 95% of netlabels, which are providing hardly anything but minimal dub-house stuff.

The story: The label was founded in spring 2004 but most of the artists got to know each other earlier in the fm4-soundpark (an online music community thing made up by the local radio-station FM4). but as the possibilities to release music there are limited to a single track once a month or so, we decided to make something on our own. so we founded a netlabel, laridae (named after a track by photophob).

A very special thanks to the following participants. Please visit their excellent sites:



Film frame grabs from the Public Domain film 'The Phantom Planet'.
The film can be downloaded and viewed at Archive.org: <http://www.archive.org/details/PhantomPlanet>

Space images used courtesy of NASA: <http://nix.nasa.gov/>

Package designed by nvzion.com
Compilation released under a Creative Commons License
Band promo photos retain their respective licenses.

Please see track information for individual license details.



BSCOMP0009 / © October 2007 blocSonic.com.