

ISSUES

WE'RE BUILDING A TOWER

MARSHALL ALLEN



THE SUN RA ARKESTRA

74: 07/01/23

MARSHALL'S 99TH BIRTHDAY - CATHI NEAL

THE JOURNAL
OF OUR FIFTH
FOUNDATION

OCI

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SCAVENGER FOOD

BY ELLA SOLIS

I sit near the window as I feel the night draw ever closer. I turn my fan and light off and begin to wander outside. I wander down through a field of tall grass and into a small wooded area. In the wooded area, there's a river past the big tree in the tiny clearing. There is where I found the water. I walk along the water, covering myself in mud, when a small frog crosses my path. I put the frog into my pocket and walk further down the river. Eventually, there is a rocky area where I find a small waterfall. I take the frog out of my pocket. "Come on out little buddy, let us wash ourselves clean," I said as I walked into the waterfall.

I had a flashback, or maybe just an overwhelming feeling. Everything went black and I saw myself at the park with my friends. We are having a picnic, and everything feels serene when thunderclouds roll in from the south. We wander towards it,

but these clouds were so thick that they completely blocked out the sun and it was dark. All around us, we felt like we were being watched. I awoke underneath the water, the frog standing directly on my face. I get up quickly to catch my breath, catching the frog in my hands. It is incredibly dark at this point.

I look to my left and right and I see glowing eyes from both directions. I put the frog in my pocket and stand up to look around more. Eyes are staring down at me from all directions. I feel threatened and unsafe, but I clutch the frog and begin the trek back home. I hear breathing and shuffling from the bushes I pass, but they don't sound like big animals. By this point, I reckon if I needed to, I could stand my ground. Through the forest, I see a man standing in the clearing, completely still. I decided it best to avoid him and took the more-wooded path. I move quickly through the forest, eyes still all around me.

I hear footsteps tailing me as I hasten my pace. I couldn't tell what the footsteps were or what they could belong to because I heard them from all directions. I feel a blunt object hit me on the back of the head before everything goes black again. I woke up in the dewy morning in a patch of wet grass and leaves in the forest. I feel around my body in a panic to see if I'm okay and where I am. Everything seems to be fine, so I get up and brush the leaves and dirt from myself. I have a throbbing headache. I begin to wander, disoriented with no sense of coordination. Through the clearing, along the river. I find myself back at the waterfall, only this time it is full of life. In front of me are large groups of raccoons and opossums enjoying the water, playing with each other, and running around. I walk slowly, slowly, slowly towards the waterfall, hunching down to make myself as small as possible so as not to disturb anyone,

and continue on the path. I see the raccoons notice me and begin to shuffle away from me. I get down on my hands and knees and begin crawling toward the waterfall.

They look ever so curious about me. I slow my pace to barely a crawl as my knees and hands touch the water at the foot of the waterfall. I crawl into the water letting it submerge me while I keep my head above it. I turn around at a snail's pace and lie on my back, floating in the water. The current carries me toward the edge of the water while the raccoons and opossums crawl onto my body.

I take in a deep breath and open my eyes as wide as I can. In this moment I feel beautiful, in this moment I feel free. The opossums begin biting me, and the raccoons soon follow. I let them eat me alive so that I may become part of them for the rest of their lives. Please, consume me, it's the only way I can be beautiful, too.

-ELLA SOLIS



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FEATURED ARTIST INTERVIEW W/
MARSHALL ALLEN

Editor's note: To set the scene, this interview was recorded in a busy upscale jazz bar in Baltimore called Keystone Korner. Through the entire interview, the chatter of bar patrons and constant singing of free jazz flute was happening in the background. Try to appreciate the atmosphere as you read the following:

Marshall: Can you hear me? Ok.
Ryan: And can I hear me? Yes, I can hear me too.
Are you ready to do this?
M: Yeah. I'm ready to get this over with.
R: I'm sure. Hahaha. Alright. Just for the fun of it I'll start with this:

What's your name and where are you located in time and space?

M: I'm Marshall Allen. Member, Director, of Sun Ra Arkestra. 5626 Morgan Street, Philadelphia, PA. Germantown.

R: Alright. How old were you when you first knew that you were an artist?

M: Huh?
R: How old were you when you first knew that you were an artist?

M: Oh, I don't know. When I was small, I had clarinet lessons and the oboe. I liked the clarinet better, so I wanted to play a clarinet. That's where it started. I started on the clarinet.

R: What do you think is the role of an artist in society?

M: Bringing music to the people. Bringing happiness. Creative music. Sound. Deal with melodies. Sound. Better world. Create a better world, no matter how small.

R: Yeah!

Of all the instruments you've played, and I know that you've played quite a few, what's your favorite instrument to play?

M: Well, I got Saxophone, flute, oboe, piccolo, EVI, and finger piano. I like em all. My main instrument is an alto saxophone.

R: When did you start to incorporate electronic instruments into your playing?

M: When I ran into Sun Ra. When I joined the Sun Ra Arkestra.

R: Right away? Or did it take a while?

M: No, it took a little while until I got familiar with them. I joined the Arkestra, and he was talking about electronic things.

R: Already?

M: Yeah, yeah.

R: He was kind of ahead of the curve on a lot of things.

M: Right.

R: Was your and Sun Ra's decision to incorporate synthesizers and electronic instruments-

M: That's what he was telling us! The future is going to be electronic trumpets, drums, and everything so get yourself together. You gonna have the electronic duplicate the natural things.

R: Did he- so, it wasn't just about how it sounded. He also like that it was-

M: He had a vision of what his music was about so all he needed was to train the musicians to project the music.

<break>

R: You can give him his-

M: That's Cornelia.

R: Is that drink for him?

M: Yeah. That's Cornelia.

R: Hello, Cornelia.

M: She's alright.

<end of break>

R: What motivated you to work with Sun Ra over other band leaders?

M: I tell you. I was in Paris. I was over there in Europe 7 or 8 years. So, when I came home, I was looking for a band to join. So, I did jam sessions around and

around and around. A guy told me about, "here's a demo with Sun Ra on it."

R: Yeah!

M: I was buying his records all the time, you know, hey! Ok! I took it home and I heard Super Blonde and I said, "Damn that's a nice band!"

R: Hahaha.

M: I had a friend who asked me where do you live, and I said on the South side. He said well that's where Sun Ra is, on the south side. So, you know he said you're right around, you live 6 blocks from him!

R: Haha.

M: So, I went one day while the band was rehearsing. I walked in and that was the beginning.

R: Yeah!

CONTINUED



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MARSHALL ALLEN CONTINUED

M: He was talking about outer space and all that stuff. Talking about the Bible and outer space, Earth, and all this stuff. Electronic instruments. Talking about what you should prepare yourself for. He was talking about all of that before it happened.

R: Was Sun Ra a prophet?

M: You can call him what you want. A prophet or something, whatever. But, I know he was a master musician.

R: Yeah.

M: And, he had a bright mind. And a vision. And a program.

R: Yeah.

M: That's all it is. I have to be part of that program to be successful.

R: Does it feel to you like you inherited more than a band?

M: It is more than a band. I did. I learned my lessons the best I could. When everything passed away and they went through all the planets I had nothing left. So, what am I supposed to do with all these things that he was building all these years? I had to carry on with it the best of my knowledge. Carry on with his wonderful musical genius.

R: So, do you feel sometimes like someone or something else is playing through you when you play?

M: Yeah, when I am really with it. Yeah, something else is guiding me. Guiding me away, you know. So, if you open up your mind to try and do something than these things will help.

R: Do you feel that is kind of what sets the Arkestra apart?

M: Well, it's about music. Music, sound, sound.

R: Yeah, sound.

M: Sound body, sound mind. You tune your attention to it, and you make music.

R: Yeah.

M: That's what I did. Not about other stuff like money, women, you know. Letting the music and creativity do its thing, you know. A better world. By a small one.

R: Were you influenced by any artists-

M: All the big bands during the 20s and 30s. Duke Ellington, Count Basie, you name it. Everyone had something they dig from them.

R: What about non-musical artists.

M: Well, those that did poetry and all those things, yes. All those people.

<break>

M: There's my son.

R: Now, obviously I love your music, and I love Sun Ra's music and that's what brought me to want to meet you. To try to mail you a painting and everything. I really fell in love with the album Space Probe. I love lots of albums by you

and then more recently Prophet. This album, Prophet that came out. They both kind of were built, you know, you wrote it, they're built around extensive synth noise and then jazz. Kind of like, to me, they're almost industrial albums if that makes sense.

M: MmmHm. We played for the people.

R: Yeah.

M: We were playing music.

There's types of music that will make you cry, make you happy, make you sad, make you realize things. There's all of it. When you bring the music, you make people happy. You do

whatever.

R: Yeah.

M: You see, that's it. Building the sound. Sound body, sound mind. So, you take sound and see if you can-

R: Did Sun Ra choose to work with electronic instruments because he saw-

M: Sun Ra had a program. He's talking about all these things in the future that the people didn't think about. He's saying this is what the world's doing.

That's a matter of fact. So, now we got to play music and deal with sound to change the people.

R: Yeah.

M: So, they won't be behind when we go into space. Do you see?

R: Yeah, I see.

M: So, duty is, we're changing the people's mind with the chaos and whatever that's out there. And different sounds.

R: And people are going to need technology in space.

M: Yeah, and all this is coming. We knew about all this coming before most people.

R: Yeah.

M: You see, because we are writing the music to depict these days.

R: I see it. So do you still compose new work?

M: Well, imagination is a magic carpet. Put it that way. Sometimes you go and you find something, and you hear something, and you come back and put it down.

R: It still happens?

M: Yeah, It still happens.

Sounds might even be out there. I don't know. So, we have to find them.

R: So, you like to explore?

M: Yes, indeed. Because I got to get ready for this space age. Space age is here to stay, no place you can run away.

"Went to the rock to hide your face, the rock cried out no hidin' place." That's a song.

So, he did it with sound.

I'll sing the lyrics "Space age is the place. Went to the rock to hide your face, the rock cried out no hiding place." So, we put it in the lyrics of a song.

<Marshall begins to sing>

"Space age is here to stay, no place that you can run away, if you go to the rock to hide your face, the rock'll cry out no hiding space."

R: That's right.

M: <singing more> "Space is here to stay, no place you can run away." and lyrics like that. We sang that to the people to let them know. Let them hear the melody. Let them hear the words. Let them hear the song and they'll think about the space age.

R: Let it bounce around.

M: All his music, his words and stuff are about the space age. He'd go on and on about the melody, bringing it to the people. To wake them.

R: Wake em up!

M: Mmhmhaha. Sing it to them, they'll understand.

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MARSHALL ALLEN POSTER



MARSHALL ALLEN

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CARL KRUGER IN COOPERATION WITH AI MIND: ANSWERS WITHOUT QUESTION **PROMPT**

1. Nephelococcygia (finding shapes in clouds).
a. As rhythmic waves crashed against a rocky shore, I lay on the grass, finding shapes in the clouds above. A dragon soared through the sky, its wings unfurling with every gust of wind, while a ship sailed on fluffy seas, its mast tall and proud. Nature's artistry unfolded before my eyes, blending the dance of the waves and the whimsy of the clouds into a harmonious symphony of imagination.
b. The rhythmic waves crashed against the rocky shore.

2. Quaquaversal (dipping or sloping downward in all directions).
a. I had a great uncle who never married. He took care of his elderly father, the man I was named after. My great uncle was spurned by a love interest in his youth which he supposedly never recovered from. He worked in an electronics store, collecting gadgets and books on all things scientific. He'd somehow fit massive electronic organs in his modest home, updating to the latest models which he'd perform on to his family in his living room. They fascinated us.
b. The detective meticulously examined the clues at the crime scene.

3. Nycotograph (a device used for writing in the dark).
a. With the storm's approach, the room succumbed to an enveloping darkness, yet my determination prevailed as my pen gracefully traversed the paper, etching words amidst the enigmatic veil. In the distance, thunder grumbled, intermittently adorning the backdrop of my nocturnal writing pursuit. And in harmony with the resplendent flashes of lightning, fleeting glimmers of my handwritten creations enlightened the room, divulging the concealed magnificence within the atmospheric tumult.
b. The thunder rumbled in the distance, heralding the approaching storm.

4. Defenestrate (to throw something out of a window).
a. Being pattern-hungry is when we naturally have a strong desire to spot and understand patterns in different areas of life, such as art, nature, or even how people behave. It's like having a mindset that craves finding order, connections, and significance in the world around us. When we embrace our pattern-hungry nature, it opens us up to appreciating the intricate details of existence and ignites a greater sense of curiosity and the joy of exploring and uncovering new things.
b. The distant sound of laughter mingled with the fading hues of a breathtaking sunset.

5. Impignorate (to pledge or pawn something).
a. Code itself does not possess the human-like experience of dreams. However, through complex algorithms and data processing, AI systems can generate novel and unexpected patterns, ideas, or outputs, akin to the way human dreams can be a product of the subconscious mind.

The term "dreaming" in the context of code refers to the generation of imaginative and innovative results based on the computational processes and patterns programmed into the system.
b. The aroma of freshly baked bread filled the cozy kitchen.

6. Ultracrepidarian (a know-it-all know-nothing).
a. Flumgogox blibberdy ploof. Spatulicious wibblewobble zazz. Gobblefunk snickerdoodle sploop.
b. The mischievous cat stealthily pawed at the dangling thread, unraveling the tapestry.

7. Zarf (coffee cup holder).
a. Enhanced Immersive Experiences: Techno music in 2050 may incorporate advanced immersive technologies, such as virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR), blurring the boundaries between sound and visual elements. The music may be designed to create multisensory experiences, with interactive elements and synchronized visuals.
b. The scent of freshly brewed coffee wafted through the cozy café, enticing weary travelers.

8. Logomachy (an argument about words).
a. While augmented technology might provide immersive and interactive experiences, it would face challenges in directly accessing or distinguishing dreams, as they occur within the individual's internal mental landscape. Augmented reality, in its current form, lacks the capability to directly tap into or interpret the content of a person's dreams.
b. The symphony orchestra played a mesmerizing melody at the grand concert hall.

9. Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia (the fear of long words).
a. The concept of code becoming morally accountable to its users is a topic of ongoing ethical debate. Currently, code, algorithms, and artificial intelligence systems are designed and programmed by humans who bear the responsibility for the ethical considerations and consequences of their creations. However, as technology advances and autonomous systems become more sophisticated, questions arise about how to ensure moral accountability.
b. The melodious tune of the piano echoed through the grand hall.

10. Ailurophile (cat lovers).
a. The role of religion in society is deeply rooted in complex and personal beliefs, values, and spiritual experiences. Code, on the other hand, is a tool created by humans to facilitate various tasks and processes. While technology, including code-driven advancements, has influenced many aspects of human life, it is unlikely that code will entirely replace religion.
b. With a flick of his wrist, he revealed a hidden talent for magic tricks.

-END-

1. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Pee Wee Herman.

Pee Wee Herman embarked on a wild lucid dreaming adventure where his bicycle transformed into a flying unicorn, and he soared through a cotton candy sky, spreading laughter and silliness to everyone below. But just as he was about to save the day, Pee Wee woke up, realizing it was all just a dream, and decided to embrace the day with his signature "I know you are, but what am I?" enthusiasm.

2. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Mr T.

In the realm of dreams, Mr. T donned his gold chains and mohawked helmet, vanquishing nightmares with his fists of courage and pitying the fool who tried to invade his slumber. With each victorious punch, he'd shout, "I ain't afraid of no dream! I pity the REM!"

3. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Cyndi Lauper.

In the world of dreams, Cyndi Lauper found herself in a technicolor wonderland, where she danced with neon unicorns and sang with clouds that harmonized like rainbows. With a voice that sparkled like stardust, she embraced the surreal, knowing that in dreams, true colors shine brighter than ever.

4. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of E.T. the Extraterrestrial.

In the magical realm of dreams, E.T. discovered his glowing finger had the power to create intergalactic dreamscape adventures, where bicycles flew through constellations and moonbeams carried messages of love and friendship across the universe. With a heart full of wonder, E.T. whispered, "Dreams... phone... home," longing to share the joyous dreamscape with his human friends.

5. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Punky Brewster.

In Punky Brewster's lucid dream, her mismatched sneakers transformed into rocket boosters, propelling her into a world where imagination ran wild. With her trusty dog sidekick, Brandon, by her side, they painted the sky with vibrant colors and turned ordinary moments into extraordinary adventures.

6. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of 1986 Kirk Cameron.

In 1986, Kirk Cameron's lucid dream transported him to a rad world of big hair, neon colors, and righteous skateboarding skills. With every kickflip and ollie, he soared through an electric dreamscape, spreading gnarly vibes and reminding everyone that dreams can be totally tubular.

7. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Nancy Reagan.

In the realm of lucid dreams, Nancy Reagan adorned herself with elegance and grace, strolling through gardens where roses bloomed as a symbol of hope and resilience. With each dreamy step, she whispered encouragement, reminding dreamers that they could achieve anything if they just said "Just dream, baby."

8. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Marty McFly.

In the wild dreamscape, Marty McFly hopped into his DeLorean, harnessing the power of lucid dreaming to travel through time and space, rocking out to the sounds of the past and future. With a flash of his guitar, he shredded through dream dimensions, leaving behind a trail of electrifying adventures that made everyone exclaim, "Great Scott!"

9. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of Yahoo Serious.

In the zany realm of lucid dreams, Yahoo Serious found himself surfing on a wave of laughter, with kangaroos as his comedic companions and koalas as his audience. With a quirky grin and a twinkle in his eye, he embraced the wacky possibilities, proving that dreams could be as delightfully peculiar as his very own Young Einstein.

10. Write a two sentence short story about lucid dreaming in the style of 1984 Tom Hanks.

In the dreams of 1984, Tom Hanks' infectious charm transported him to a whimsical world where typewriters tapped out stories that came to life, and he danced his way through a symphony of laughter and heartwarming moments. With each dreamy step, he reminded everyone that dreams can be an enchanting escape, filled with endless possibilities and a touch of magic.

-END-



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IMPRESSIONS OF

FORTUNE CELLAR by PAUL SOTNIK

Paul Sotnik is a groove-based electronic artist from Chicago, IL. He released, "Fortune Cellar," on April 24, 2023.

You can check it out here:
paulsotnik.bandcamp.com/album/fortune-cellar

My Impressions:

A relaxing, meandering walk through a realm of groove-centered electronics painted with a brush of jazz-leaning atmosphere.

The tones are clean and creamy. Generally, a synthesized electric piano plays lead over massage-like synth percussion and supporting chords with jazzy constructions. This is pleasant, peaceful, and energizing.

REKLA SI MI by SENKE PROLAZNOSTI

SENKE PROLAZNOSTI is an indie rock group from Serbia. Bitume released their single, "Rekla Si Mi," on June 6, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
bitumeprods.bandcamp.com/album/rekla-si-mi

My Impressions:

Serbia's answer to The Pixies, I suppose. The tunes surround me with a surprisingly 1990s style alternative rock. The vocals sound sardonic and conflicted, maybe even sarcastic. The music is melodic but just a bit hard, grooving but still rocking.

If the song was in English and a bit more slickly produced, I could see this playing on rock radio here in the states.

It's interesting to hear a band from Serbia play like they are from Seattle. I'm here for it.



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SINGLES by REGGAE VIBES MUSIC (LABEL)

Reggae Vibes Music is a reggae record label from Kingston, Jamaica, Atlanta, GA, and elsewhere. They have several singles available to listen to on their website, including, "Jamaica Holiday," "Spend a Little Time, a Little More Time Under the Sheets," and more.

You can check it all our here:
www.reggaevibesmusic.com/music

My Impressions:

Given the name of the label you can predict my impressions. The sounds in these songs are laid back, relaxed and upbeat. The artists here blend Reggae with soul and pop. They sing relatable songs over happy beats with the standard hits on the 2 and 4. If you like island music, you will enjoy these artists.

TESSERACT by MEREDITH BATES

Meredith Bates is an avant garde artist from Vancouver, BC. Phonometrograph released the album, "Tesseract," on June 2, 2023.

You can check it out here:
phonometrograph.bandcamp.com/album/tesseract

My Impressions:

An unusual combination of sounds, samples and music greets my ear with a strange-but-not-grating collection of pieces.

The music tends toward the abstract, the minimalist, the noise-based, the avant-garde, but it still has an odd kind of harmony to it.

The layered tones build up to a kind of chord. The samples stack more than clash. The effect is meditative rather than jarring.

LULU by HEY CALAMITY

Hey Calamity is a shoegaze band from Australia. Shore Dive Records released their album, "Lulu," on April 15, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
shorediverecords.bandcamp.com/album/lulu

My Impressions:

A vast, cool ocean, swimming up from the depths as a wave cascades overhead. Air bubbles rise. The rays of the sun break into shards of mirrored light as your eyes adjust to the summer sky.

You're floating upwards, upwards towards a new heavenly vista. You are full of air, love, and light. You feel the penetration of the holy warmth as you are absorbed into an aethereal realm.

LEFT ON DELMAR DRIVE by BIG LOSER

Big Loser is a pop rock group from Jersey City, NJ. They released an ep called, "Left On Delmar Drive," on May 19, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
blacknumbers.bandcamp.com/album/left-on-delmar-drive

My Impressions:

Bittersweet sounding melodic vocals cry in emotional cadence over palm muted guitars, picked arpeggios and strummed chords. The instruments line up with tight percussion. The vocals sing sweetly in harmonies. The songs build up and fall apart in dynamic range. The choruses are ear worms. The verses build casual tension. This is well done.

ICY EP by NEIST SEASON

Neist Season is an electro rock outfit from France. Shore Dive Records released their ep, "Icy EP," on May 12, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
shorediverecords.bandcamp.com/album/icy-ep

My Impressions:

Groovy, aethereal rock music featuring an expansive, starlit sound.

The vocals are harmonized and produced for maximum tonality. The vibe is slow-ish but propulsive. The grooves are oriented for head nodding.

Like a cool rain shower on a hot day, the sound is refreshing and clean.

BELIEVES IN YOU by CROSSED EYES

Crossed Eyes is a pop punk group from Philadelphia, PA. They released the album, "Believes in You," on May 5, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
crossedkeys.bandcamp.com/album/believes-in-you-2

My Impressions:

High energy, accessible rock music.

This album combines melodic vocals, distorted guitars, and strumming in line with solid, in the pocket, punk drumming.

The songs are fully fleshed out, recorded well, and mixed even better. It is often catchy and always poured over.

IMPRESSIONS OF

THE SAMBA SESSIONS by SENSELESS

Senseless is a punk act from the UK. They released, "The Samba Sessions," on April 28th, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
dammitrecords.bandcamp.com/album/the-samba-sessions

My Impressions:

I love the fun and playful guitar riffs in this record. Overall it's an exciting record with plenty of fun listening tracks. I'm particularly fond of Senseless from this record, as it takes on a more intense vibe while remaining as jovial as the rest of the songs. I enjoy the use of silence as an instrument in this record. Furthermore, the fast tempo and tight guitar work do the heavy lifting. My favorite songs from the album are the more aggressive ones such as: Senseless, Midlife Crisis, Barstool Jockey, and Blahh. I especially love Barstool Jockey as I love the usage of punk vocals over acoustic guitar. This album, to me, is the embodiment of never giving up having fun. I highly recommend this album, especially my favorite song: Barstool Jocke.

L.O.L. by DIMITRIS KORONTZIS

Dimitris Korontzis is a jazz-fusion/new-age experimental act from Athens, Greece. They released, "L.O.L." on May 2nd, 2023.

You can check it out here:
dimitriskorontzis.bandcamp.com/album/l-o-l

My Impressions:

The first song of this album starts out dark with an ominous, almost sinister percussion sound and a menacing synth playing in the background.

The drums kick in and begin a dark ambient segue into a more Eastern sound with singing in another language. The drums drone on until the song transitions into something reminiscent of being in an underground mall in a big city (around 3:15). This part continues until it dies down before finally exploding--the climax of the song.

I love the usage of many different instruments sounds to create an entire atmosphere for each individual song. I really like the dark melodies and accompaniments used as well. Furthermore, the switch-ups and transitions are funky and easy to enjoy.
My favorite song: Asia Minor Tango.

PLAY by DOMESTICATRIX

Domesticatrix is a solo industrial noise act from Birmingham, Alabama. They released, "Play," on May 1st, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
domesticatrix.bandcamp.com/album/play

My Impressions:

This album makes me think incredibly abstract thoughts. It makes me feel like I'm being chased and/or chasing someone through the woods. In the song So Do It the synths are evil and foreboding, bordering on unsettling. It transitions perfectly into the next song, New Flesh. This song features a fat synth blaring over the drums. Segue 2 has a lot of computers glitching noises which are quite pleasant to my senses. I appreciate the vocal parts in Good In A Dress, as they are the pinnacle of the song. I also am a huge fan of songs' endings beginning the next song on the record, which this record utilizes a lot of. Threshold of Deserving reminds me of the later parts of Sally Face, the game.

Segue 4 sounds like someone has caught up to you and aims to hurt you. April 8th features highly distorted, washed-out vocals which tie the closing of the album together brilliantly. It finishes with Suburban Arms Race, which features a cacophony of sirens wailing with noise and a vocal sample. Altogether, this is one of my favorite records ever, do yourself a favor and check this out.
My favorite song: Threshold of Desire.

SINGLES by AUTODEALER & THE CORRUPTING SEA

Autodealer and The Corrupting Sea are ambient electronic projects. They released singles, "Driving in a Fog Seems Like a Mist Opportunity," and "Coldwave in the Coldcave," as part of a Somewherecold Records album called, "Sonic Ablutions," which will release in full on September 1, 2023.

Hear a portion of it here:
somewherecoldrecords.bandcamp.com/album/sonic-ablutions-2

My Impressions:

These two tracks share a similar motif which combines a sort of mystical quality with a bright cosmosis.

The listener can easily find herself drifting through the avenues of her mind, recalling beautiful, star lit memories as she appreciates the depth and harmony of these tunes.

FUCKING YOUR BRAIN WITH A CRAYON by TRANSVERSE

Transverse is an ambient electronic act from Los Angeles, CA. Somewherecold Records will release their album, "Returning to the Fount of Destruction," on September 1, 2023. I listened to "Fucking Your Brain With A Crayon."

You can check it out here:
transverse.bandcamp.com/album/returning-to-the-fount-of-destruction

My Impressions:

This track is a widely-woven fabric of interior light.

Perhaps the title implies a kind of lucid lobotomy, a technique of brain matter obliterating erasure which fortunately creates a heavenly aetherial bliss.

Even if not, that's what this piece is to me. It is mystery. It is gathering wind. It is peace.

THE HOUSE WE LIVE IN by BRAVERY IN BATTLE

Bravery in Battle is a post rock group from Paris, France. They released a series of songs and videos called, "The House We Live In," on June 9, 2023.

You can find them here:
braveryinbattle.org/#4

My Impressions:

These songs progress with a feeling of wistful nostalgia. There is a pained, bittersweet quality to the melodies. They seem to represent a lost innocence suffused with the possibility of a difficult hope. It is troubling to decipher whether this music is mournful or hopeful, whether it is triumphant or resigned. It all seems to exist in an in-between realm that straddles the chasm between disaster and possibility.

STATE OF THE UNION by NEW BERLIN

New Berlin is an indie rock/pop punk combo from McAllen, Texas. They released an album called, "State of The Union," on May 2, 2023.

You can listen to it here:
new-berlin.bandcamp.com/album/state-of-the-union

My Impressions:

These are harmonized vocals, stripped down, garage style rock and roll tunes.

The entire album seems to be a kind of resigned protest piece. It's difficult to know exactly what they are saying but it is certain that they are unhappy about the state of the realm.

The songs are tuneful and toe tapping. The range from punk to grunge, indie and rockabilly. The music is direct, minimally-constructed, and earthy. It would be a fun live show, I'm sure.

PARADISE by SAGES FROM THE FUTURE

Sages From The Future is a pop punk/punk band from Joy, Kolkata, India.

Check it out here:
dammitrecords.bandcamp.com/album/paradise

My Impressions:

This band reminds me so much of Blink-182! I had a great time listening to this album. This is pop-punk in its purest form, at tip-top shape. The guitar work is tight and the lyrics are well-written with vocals beautifully sung. The bass solo in The Last Man on Earth is super energetic and bouncy. I like the happy-sounding riffs and vocals blended with the heavier drums. Furthermore, the fun bouncy riffs are ever-so-present within Paradise. The instrumental work on Wake Up 'N Run is really well-executed. I am a fan of the quick guitar strums in that song and I'm particularly fond of all the palm-mutes they use in their songs.
My favorite song: Pills In The Eyes

THESE REVIEWS BY ELLA SOLIS



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MARSHALL ALLEN CONCLUDED

R: So, did Sun Ra's incarnation on this planet permanently change our culture?

M: Of course, he changed a lot of things. I mean to each his own. He might change something for you, he might change something for me. You see? What he changed for me is that he let me play. Anywhere was better than what I had.

R: Are you influenced by Gnosticism?

M: Huh?

R: Are you influenced by Gnosticism? Or was Sun Ra?

M: I'm trying to see what he told me, if I can be.

R: Yeah.

M: I'm working on myself so when I talk to someone

else, I'm giving the right message. I'm not guessing. I'm working out the problem, by living it. You say music then I'll drop everything and play music and find things that turn people on.

R: That's why he called it his equation, right?

M: Well, I don't understand everything, but I'm still learning things. I'm still baffled by some things he said and did. But I was baffled more than that when I first came. I didn't know nothing.

R: That's right. Ok!

It's your 99th birthday. What would you like to do that you haven't done yet?

M: I'm doing it. I'm doing it. I haven't done a lot of

things. I'm still doing it. I'm still trying.

R: What are you looking forward to?

M: I'm looking forward to doing something worthwhile before I leave this planet.

R: Thank you.

M: You're welcome.

R: I will send you a copy of this edition in the mail. It's been a pleasure.

-END-

ISSUES INTERVIEW WITH CATHI NEAL

Ryan: So, Cathi, thanks for agreeing to do this interview.

Cathi: Thank you so much for having me, how are you doing today?

R: I am doing well, how are you?

C: I'm doing well, thank you.

R: So, the way this works is, I'll ask you a series of questions. We're going to record them. Later on, I will type them up and transcribe them in ISSUES. The interview will be in our July first edition.

C: How exciting. That's awesome.

R: So, we'll start here: what's your name and where are you located in time and space?

C: My name is Cathi. I was born in Winterville, NC. I currently live in Greenville.

R: What brought you to Greenville?

C: I lived here all my life. Gong to school in Greenville. I went to middle school and high school in Winterville. My mom was a teacher in Winterville, so I went to Wahl-Coates Elementary School where she taught.

R: Are you a musician yourself?

M: I am a musician myself. I play viola. I play cello. I currently am a beginning percussion player for The Pride and Joy Saxophone Ensemble. I am first chair viola player in the Pitt Community College Symphony Orchestra.

CONTINUED



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CATHY NEAL CONTINUED

R: Do you do promotion?
 M: Do I do promotion? I do.
 R: Ok. We recently saw you at your birthday show.
 M: Yeah, I did a little promotion for mine and Daniel Hatley's birthday party. It was at Molly's.
 R: What acts were playing that day?
 M: It was Paper Skulls, Mercury Dimes, Trailer Park Cassanova, also Billy Bates and the Madmen from Atlanta, GA. They were really cool.
 R: How did you know them?
 M: I know them through Jeff.
 R: What's your relationship with Jeff like?
 M: He's a down-to-Earth wonderful kind of guy. He's the reason I keep going, taking pictures, and posting them on social media for others to listen to and to look at. It's like, wow, this is really good stuff. This is so cool.
 R: Great. When did you start getting involved with the local music scene here?
 C: I started getting involved around April 2013. A good friend of mine, Charles Humbles, was in my psychology class the year before. We reconnected. He was saying, there's a show at East Coast Music and video and I was saying I wanted to go. I'd take a few pictures of him and the band he was in. Just went from there. He's definitely the reason why I keep going. He inspired me to keep going and ten years later I'm here and still doing it.
 R: So, you do a lot of journalism your own self, kind of photo journalism?
 M: I do.
 R: You say that you've been doing this since 2013.
 Charles was your introduction. What kind of band was Charles in?
 M: Charles was in a band called Null.
 R: What sort of sound did it have?
 M: It was rock and roll, of course.

Garage rock, kind of.
 R: You enjoyed that?
 M: I did. I loved going to a Null show. One of my first favorite bands that I got into when I first started going into the music scene.
 R: Did you take a lot of pictures with them?
 M: I did. I took a lot of pictures with them.
 R: What are some other acts they used to commonly play with?
 M: They commonly played with No Brainer. No Brainer, a punk band. No Brainer. I'm trying to think of who else they played with because it has been a long time.
 R: It's been a while. Do they still play?
 M: No. Not anymore.
 R: Charles's band.
 M: No. Not anymore either.
 R: Are they still local or did they go on to Greener pastures?
 M: They went on to Greener pastures.
 R: That does happen sometime in Greenville. It's a little bit of a transitory spot. A lot of the people that I know from here are here from somewhere else, or they're going somewhere else. Other than a few people like yourself and Jeff who have been pretty constant.
 So, tell me about some of the acts that you've seen over the years that have stood out to you.
 M: So, in the Greenville scene we were really strong into punk and metal. The band with the following that stood out to me the most that have gone on to do bigger and better things, No Brainer was one. Exalted was a metal band. Parallels and of course Aether Realm. They're still doing their thing. They're big right now.
 You've got, I'm trying to think who else. It's been so long.
 R: Do you think you've been cycling through different periods? There will be a period where there's certain bands and then later on there are other bands who take their place later on?
 M: Here and there, yes. Here and there.
 R: Have you ever considered playing your viola with one of the local acts?
 M: Actually,

I did play a viola with one of the local acts and Dave Clark convinced me. I can't remember what the name of the band was, but I got to play but I got to play an Irish jig with them. It was cool. Dave Clark convinced me to, "Go grab your viola. They're really, really legit." I went from there. It was the most fun I've ever had and teaching an Irish jig to them. That's my forte on viola.
 R: How did you learn viola?
 M: I've been playing viola since I was 9 years old. I've been in Wahl-Coates orchestra. I've played in elementary school, middle school, high school and now. I play in Pitt Community College Symphony orchestra where I am first chair.
 R: Do you also attend there or are you just in the orchestra?
 M: I'm just in the community orchestra for them.
 R: Very Nice. Very Nice. How often do they have performances?
 M: We meet on Tuesdays. Then we have our performances on Tuesday. So, basically every Tuesday.
 R: Oh, really, they do live performances?
 M: Absolutely.
 R: Interesting. Is that at the college?
 M: We vary. Fall concerts we'll play in Farmville. Holiday concerts we'll play at a church in Greenville. The same thing with our winter and spring concert. We'll play anywhere in Greenville.
 R: Ok cool. Do you end up playing community events?
 M: We did. We ended up doing it a few years back. We did play on Sunday in the park. A couple of years later we also played Grimesland. We played in New Bern.
 R: Ok, so you don't just play Greenville. You actually play in different cities.
 M: We play in different cities. Last year we played in Bathfest which is in Bath, NC of course.
 R: Yeah.
 M: A lot of fun. It was really, really cool. Just to branch out and see what is outside of Greenville.
 R: Absolutely. Absolutely. When you do those events are you all together or are you in all separate vehicles?
 M: We all carpool in separate vehicles and we go from there.
 R: Ok, very interesting. So, let's talk a little bit more about your background. You said you grew up in Winterville?
 M: On the outskirts of Greenville.
 R: It's South, right? It's almost where the community college is.
 M: Yes.
 R: So, what were your parents like? Did they play music at all?
 M: My dad used to play the trumpet when he was a little boy and my mom sang, but she didn't play an instrument.
 R: When she sang was that more at home or did, she also does church?
 M: She did sing at church and I kind of did too but when I stopped singing for church that's when she stopped too.
 R: I see. Sort of a growing up thing you stopped attending as much.
 M: Yeah.

R: What sort of music did they listen to in the house?
 M: My dad would listen to, kind of, old school 60s, 70s music. He liked jazz. He loved funk and disco. My mom's the same way too but she's more 80s, 90s. She loves old school rap and country. She loves a little bit of everything.
 R: Old school rap and country.
 M: Yeah, it's a little bit of everything with her.
 R: Absolutely. You said your father played the trumpet and listened to jazz. Did he ever play concerts or anything?
 M: I don't think he did. I think he just did it for fun, maybe.
 R: But music was in the house?
 M: Music was definitely in the house. My brother, we're 6 years apart, he used to play cello in the 4th grade. He stopped doing it and he went on to do chorus in the 5th grade.
 R: Ok so you do have a musical family altogether?
 M: Pretty much.
 R: So, it was fairly natural for you when you came to Greenville to sort of plug in and play. As soon as people were like, hey there's music going on, you wanted to be involved with it.
 M: I do, yes.
 R: Ok excellent.
 Do you have any stories from your 10 years in the local scene that kind of stand out?
 Anything wild?
 M: Actually, yes. There was this place called the Rat and Slug House and it was actually a thing. There was this- we were in a small room. I was filming No Brainer and all of a sudden, there's this big old mosh pit. I'm standing on a filing cabinet trying to get angles of No Brainer, trying to get the drummer, trying to get the whole band, of course.
 The mosh pit was really huge. I almost fell off the filing cabinet. If it wasn't for someone trying to catch me, yeah.
 R: Wow, so that sounds pretty intense.
 M: Oh yeah.
 R: Fun, though.
 M: Fun.

CONTINUED



CATHI NEAL CONCLUDED

R: So, I bet you've seen your fair share of mosh pits over the years.
 M: Yes. Mosh pits are where it is at. I've seen my fair share of some mosh pits. I've seen circle pits. I've seen, you know.
 R: Do you jump in, ever?
 M: Have I ever jumped into a mosh pit? Yeah, I've jumped into a mosh pit from time to time. Circle pits, not so much.
 R: Too intense?
 M: Yeah.
 R: Yeah, I got you. That's really interesting. This is kind of a side question: you do a lot of photography at shows? Would you ever possibly be interested in having some of your photographs be put in ISSUES?
 M: Of course, of course. Absolutely. I just got to dig into some of the old bands for the pictures.
 R: Well, definitely we want to do that for this interview, some of the pictures you took over the years. And, of course, a picture or two of yourself as well.
 M: Oh yeah, definitely.
 R: But, even in the future if you take pictures at a show, you can DM me. I can take it and put it in the show report next month and credit you.
 M: Absolutely.
 R: Ok great.
 M: Absolutely.
 R: Also, this is another selfish side thing but I'm actually just now structuring my next album. I want it to be a vinyl release. It's going to be called METAMORPHOSIS 2 by Bitter, Inc. I'm hoping to get other people's contributions. Do you think if I wrote you a viola line that you could play it?
 M: Of course. Do you know Alto clef?
 R: I could write Alto. I took a music theory course.
 M: Ok!
 R: I'd give you free copies of it and you could sell it and make money on it.
 M: Yeah, of course. And, I have friends who tell me about the past, you know. I go through all these

pictures and videos and stuff. My friends were like, you could make so much money off of this stuff.
 R: Well, you're doing favors for people and you're doing important things in the community that sometimes people don't think about, like doing a lot of word-of-mouth stuff. Doing a lot of photojournalism that you put on social media. That's actually really, really important for bands.
 M: Oh, absolutely.
 R: Even though it's not always emphasized, it is appreciated. Let's see. If you could bring any band to Greenville, what band would you bring?
 M: Oh, I've got a lot. If I could bring any band to Greenville, from years ago?
 R: They'd have to be currently playing.

M: Oh, they have to be current too.
 Mmmm.
 R: What would your dream concert be?
 M: Oh, I have a lot. Good golly I have a lot. Would they be disbanding/ even though they're disbanding?
 R: Yeah, it would have to be someone who is still playing, or maybe someone you know personally who might have a reunion just for you.
 M: A No Brainer reunion would be cool. That would be so cool. They're one of my favorite punk bands. They're a lot of fun, hardcore.
 R: That seems like it is doable. That seems like you could bring it together at some point. It's not too hard a hurdle.

Well, is there anything that you want to promote? Anything that you are selling or any websites that you run?
 M: Follow me on Instagram I'm @radioactive_meatball13 follow me on my adventures and stuff. I'll post bands, pictures, and stuff. Follow me on reels. Follow me on Facebook. I've got everything on Facebook.
 R: It's Cathi Neal CATHINEAL
 M: That's right.
 R: Thanks for sitting down with me Cathi.
 M: Thanks for having me. This was fun. I enjoyed it.
 R: I've enjoyed it too. Have a great one.
 M: Thank you.

-END-



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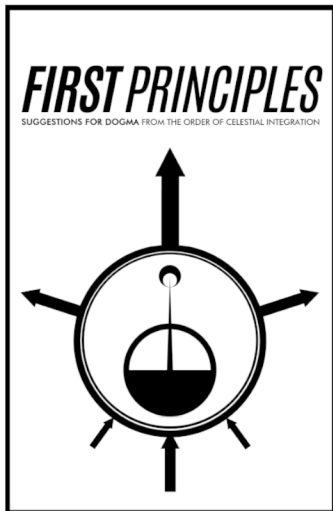
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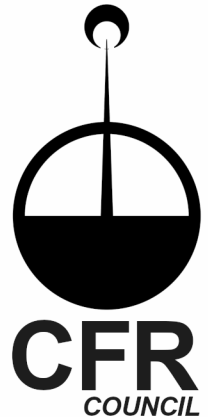
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