



PRESS RELEASE

Maximum Black Festival

Final Fantasy
Six Organs of Admittance
Dirty Projectors
Frog Eyes

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Owen Pallett, singer/songwriter and head of Canadian band Final Fantasy will both curate and headline the Maximum Black Festival in London, Berlin and Vienna in February/March 2008. On stage he will be joined by friends of the calibre of Deerhoof, Six Organs of Admittance, Dirty Projectors and Frog Eyes.

The name, Maximum Black , is derived from a song by the German band Bohren & The Club of Gore, of whom Owen is a great fan.

The Maximum Black festival will be 100% funded by the Vienna Public Utility company. This cooperation, however, is not a product of planned negotiations, but a result of extraordinary circumstances.

Background

The Vienna Public Utility Company had commissioned an international advertising agency to realize a new image campaign for them. The advertising company got in contact with Final Fantasy about using their song "This is the song of Win & Regine" as background music to a video campaign, but band and team had decided not to licence their music for commercial purposes due to bad experiences in the past. As a result the advertising company decided to ask another artist to write a song which turned out to be a nearly identical cover of Final Fantasy's original, and proceeded to use it for their campaign.

This plagiarism was not kept a secret for a long time. An impending law suit did not suit the interests of both Final Fantasy and the Viennese company, and so they both agreed to compromise: Final Fantasy, i.e. Owen Pallett and his team (Patrick Borjal & Susanne Herrndorf) offered to curate a festival to be financially and logistically supported by the Vienna Public Utility company. In return, the 'cover' of the Final Fantasy original may be used for their campaign so long as a reference to Owen's work is credited.

Bands

Final Fantasy

Besides being singer/songwriter of the band Final Fantasy, Owen Pallett is string composer of the successful band Arcade Fire. Owen used to play in Hidden Cameras, and recently composed the string arrangement for Beirut's latest album.

Final Fantasy is essentially a one-man-solo project, creating gems of baroque pop music with a host of guest musicians. Owen's is a measured croon caught somewhere between Scott Walker and Louis Philippe, with a soft Donovan-esque vibrato. Alternately dissonant and willfully melodic, his songs evoke crushing sighs of defeat or violent outbursts of passion, contained masterfully within luscious strings and complex instrumentation.

Ever busy, at the moment Owen is working on a collaboration with Arctic Monkey's Alex Turner as well as material for his next studio album.

www.finalfantasyeternal.com

Six Organs of Admittance

Six Organs of Admittance is basically just one man, Ben Chasny, along with whomever he ropes in for recordings or for shows. Since 1997, Six Organs of Admittance has had many releases on a variety of labels, most notably Holy Mountain and Drag City. 2006 saw the release of their last studio album, *The Sun Awakens*, which features some of the most feedback-drenched, dark, cult-chanting, completely beautiful music put to record.

Chasny has also played in the touring band of Bonnie 'Prince' Billy and plays guitar in the bands Current 93, Badgerlore, and Comets on Fire.

www.dragcity.com/bands/sixorgans.html

Dirty Projectors

Dirty Projectors are the project of Dave Longstreth, a former Yale student who left college to become one of the most prolific and unique indie singer/songwriters of the early 2000s. Longstreth's distinctive, crooning voice and equally unique approach to arrangements and both lo-fi and hi-fi production characterize the Dirty Projectors' sound. The breadth of his talents as a songwriter, arranger, bandleader and singer call to mind Prince, Joni Mitchell. A maverick: a loner and a rebel.

Dirty Projectors' new offering, *Rise Above*, is a reimagining of Black's Flag seminal 1981 record *Damaged*, attempting to rewrite Longstreth's favorite album from adolescence word for word, from memory.

www.westernvinyl.com/dirty_projectors.htm

Frog Eyes

Frog Eyes ethereal music is as much fueled by lyrical themes from early Russian and Irish literature as it is by the intuitive connection between frontman Mercer and his wife, drummer Melanie. Michael, Spencer and Mccloud contribute an electronic cornucopia of equal melody and groan. Mercer's voice is frightening, and perhaps a little frightened, adding defiant soul to his bleak revelations.

www.absolutelykosher.com/frogeyes.htm

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