

REVIEWS

C-K MUSIC REVIEW: Professor Perritt Update

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C-K Music Review



When we interviewed Professor Perritt last year about his budding songwriting activities, he was just a teacher with a vision, some band mates and a few roughly completed songs. Now, in what would make any aspiring music business manager tear with pride, he has since written and recorded nearly an album's worth of music and established a promotional website complete with its own online song sampler and store.

It's a little known fact that Perritt arguably has the biggest C-K fan base out of all the Kent musicians. Many students followed up the last article by emailing us and asking for copies of Perritt's music. Now you can hear Perritt's "colors" in all their glory on his MySpace page: www.myspace.com/modofacprof.

ModoFac is the de facto name of Perritt's recording/performing entourage. Members include Ben Shanbaum (3L) and Matt Topic (Chicago-Kent alumnus). Perritt's current works now feature full instrumentation, including violins, woodwinds and even electronic synthesizers.

Perritt has designed his MySpace page to give the listener a tasteful context in which to savor his music. I greatly enjoyed thumbing through the numerous photos he has of his band members in action. As I listened to the Kosovo Disco tune, which

admittedly caught my attention first since I am an electronica fan, I envisioned the pictures of his band mates coming to life in the charming Studio Ballistico.

In fact, Perritt's music has a fraternal spirit and feel. He successfully engages the listener with an inviting sound that makes you want to join in and add your own part to the mix.

It's perhaps why his band is 8 members strong and has grown in size since the first C-K review of his music. His lyrics are whimsical and deceptively simple, but they are filled with interesting tidbits of his observations of life. The Kosovo Disco song effortlessly rattles off its first stanza of rhyme:

"We are in Kosova again
To meet K LA fighting men
To get their stories in our book
About their belief that they would win"

The lead vocals are split between Perritt and Tim Sandusky. Tim has more of a dramatic heavy tone in his voice which is probably appropriate for the more somber tunes like "He Held the Parchment High in the Air" and "Fire for the Colors." I think Tim's voice works best though in the



punk-rock-styled "Tethered by Today."

Perritt has a similar sounding voice to Tim's but it is lighter and more melodic than dramatic. Perritt's best vocal work appears on "Wind Has Filled the Sails" and "Rim Clicks and Cow Bells." You can hear Perritt and Tim singing in a "conversation" style on the track "Back of the Room."

Perritt displays great talent in his ability to experiment and compose in many different genres. Though, I think Perritt may be better as an instrumental composer for the jazz genre. I found the vocals on his jazz track "Expectations" to be a little dull. The unique style of Perritt's and Tim's voices seems better suited for rock and pop. However, the instrumental solos in "Expectations" were quite nice, and I especially enjoyed the brass and vibes solos.

Overall, Perritt's and Tim's voices are



ABOVE: Tim Sandusky and Ben Shanbaum, 3L, collaborate.

LEFT: Professor Perritt experiments at his keyboard. Many of his compositions are inspired by his experiences as a law professor at Chicago-Kent.

fresh and unique, delivering great emotion to the rock and electronic pieces in which they appear. Moreover, the instrumentals are very rich. It's difficult to say which is better: the voices or the backing instrumentals. Perritt's band is certainly filled with a lush variety of instruments as well as talented instrumentalists. Add to this the whimsical lyrics and you have a powerful music mix that's surely worth checking out.

For the benefit of the Kent community, in addition to his MySpace page, Professor Perritt also has made a web page, which includes more detail about each individual song as well as a free download available at <http://www.kentlaw.edu/perritt/music>. Be sure to check out Professor Perritt's creative blend of rock, pop and electronica, inspired in part, by his experiences as a law professor at Chicago-Kent. ■