



WWW.CUNEIFORMRECORDS.COM

Bio information: **ALGERNON**

Title: **GHOST SURVEILLANCE** (Cuneiform Rune 297)

Cuneiform publicity/promotion dept.: 301-589-8894 / fax 301-589-1819

email: joyce [-at-] cuneiformrecords.com [press & world radio]; radio [-at-] cuneiformrecords.com [North American radio]

www.cuneiformrecords.com

FILE UNDER: ROCK/POST-ROCK

"Algernon draw inspiration from the jazz-tinged post-rock machinations of Tortoise, Chicago's foremost group in the genre. The group's style, however, veers into the louder and noisier elements of rock music. Led by composer/guitarist Dave Miller, Algernon uses two guitars, bass, drums and a vibraphone to combine gorgeous melodies with psychedelic effects and rock beats." – Center Stage Chicago

"Algernon is one of those bands...that is pushing the boundaries of rock...and more to the perimeters. They obviously don't care if it can be pegged to a genre, they only care if it's good, and it is!" – Jazz Chicago

"Algernon is a rock band whose guitar-and-vibraphone plot twists relish in static climaxes and bass that quivers for days. It's a layered, space-age soundtrack for post-modern groove" – Beep

Algernon, one of Chicago's fastest rising young bands, features a unique line-up of dual guitars, vibes, bass and drums. The band is led by guitarist and composer **Dave Miller**, who has already built an impressive and wide-ranging number of collaborations in the few years since he arrived in Chicago. In addition to Algernon, Miller is also a member of, among other bands, **Ted Sirota's Rebel Souls** (Delmark/Naim Records), **Zing!** (ears&eyes Records), **blink.** (Thirsty Ear Records), and **Tim Daisy's New Fracture Quartet** (Multi Kulti Records). The other members of Algernon are second guitarist **Toby Summerfield** (who was a member of Detroit's **Larval** for many years), vibes player **Katie Wiegman**, bassist **Tom Perona**, and drummer **Cory Healey** (who is a member of **Fareed Haque's Flat Earth Ensemble**).

Algernon was formed by Dave Miller in the early part of 2004 when a gig with his funk band at the time was cancelled a week before the date. He took this as the opportunity to write some new music for a new ensemble – music in which he could combine a large number of musical influences without allowing any one to become the dominant sound. The music that Miller composed for his new ensemble – Algernon – combined elements from a wide range of music that he loved: avant-garde jazz, experimental rock (60s psychedelic rock, **Jimi Hendrix**, **13th Floor Elevators**), kraut-rock (**Harmonia**, **Can** and **Neu!**), the late 70s art-punk and no-wave scene (**Sonic Youth**, **Glenn Branca**) and post-rock (**Tortoise**, **Isotope 217**, **Chicago Underground**, **Godspeed!**, **Talk Talk**). Despite Miller's strong jazz background, his new ensemble was not to be an improvising band. Miller's music for Algernon was basically wholly scored; the very small amount of improvisation that the music contains is more about atmosphere(s) than about solos.

He quickly wrote music for a gig – the music later became Algernon's first album, **Charlie Changed His Mind** – had one rehearsal with the musicians, and then did the gig. This nascent rehearsal and performance excited Miller enough that he realized that this new sound was something that he wanted to further pursue. However, he was unable to work steadily with the band until after he graduated in May 2005 from Northern Illinois University (where he did his senior thesis on the music of **Lennie Tristano**, **Lee Konitz** and **Warne Marsh**) and moved to Chicago in September.

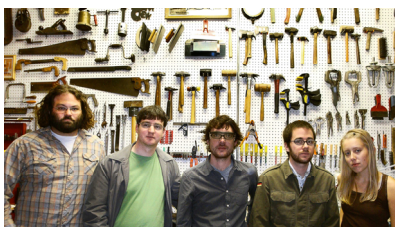
Arriving in the exciting and very fertile environment that is the current musical scene in Chicago, Miller solidified a new Algernon lineup and began composing new material. The group started playing out a few times per month, a schedule that it maintains to this day. Algernon's second album, **Familiar Espionage**, was recorded in October of 2006 and released in December of 2007. The band played Chicago's **ears&eyes Festival** in both 2007 and 2008, and in the summer and fall of 2008 toured in the midwest and southwest to support the album.

By the end of the 2008, most of the material was written for what would eventually become Algernon's third album (and first on **Cuneiform**), **Ghost Surveillance**. For this album, Miller expanded the sound of the group with the aim of mining some new sonic possibilities, incorporating synths into its live shows (and eventually onto the recording as well). In addition, he wanted to capture a live sound that was simultaneously well recorded and really raw. To do that, the band recorded at **Steve Albini's** well known studio, **Electrical Audio**, doing their utmost to capture both the band's live energy and a 'room sound' as much as possible.

With the release of **Ghost Surveillance**, in addition to its ongoing local performances, Algernon will do a full tour to the East Coast and back in April, 2010. The band is also organizing a tour further afield for the fall of 2010.

For more information, visit Algernon online at: www.algernonmusic.com & www.myspace.com/algernonmusic

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS



Digital [High-Resolution / Color] versions of these images are available for download on www.cuneiformrecords.com in the "Press" section.