



Bio information: **MIRIODOR**

Title: **AVANTI!** (Cuneiform Rune 288)

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FILE UNDER: ROCK / AVANT PROGRESSIVE

"...densely packed with ideas yet paradoxically light in feel, offering up something new for the senses at every turn. The music is both entertainingly accessible and startlingly inventive..."

...one of the finest bands ever to emerge from the Quebec musique actuelle scene. – *All Music Guide*

"...they are one of the finest exponents of the RIO sub genre on the market today. Always inventive, always surprising and always just a little off-kilter." – *ghostland.com*

"...full of fire and eclecticism." – *Gibraltar*

Birthplace of the world-famous **Cirque du Soleil**, the performing arts troupe who reinvented the circus for the new Millennium, and the critically-acclaimed band **Miriodor**, whose genre-transcendent musical acrobatics catapult instrumental rock into the 21st Century, Canada's French-speaking province of Quebec is an artistic hotbed. Looking internally and to Europe for inspiration while attempting to avoid influence from the entertainment industry in the United States, Quebecois artists have produced some of the most radically innovative music and performing arts to emerge from North America. Among the numerous highly original and uncompromising musical cooperatives – **Ambiance Magnetiques/D.A.M.E.**, **Godspeed You ! Black Emperor**, and more– operating in French Canada in the decades surrounding the new Millennium, the key musical resource on the internet, the *All Music Guide*, singled out Miriodor as "...one of the finest bands ever to emerge from the Quebec musique actuelle scene."

A Montreal-based quartet, **Miriodor** create instrumental music that is complex, playful, visually evocative, and exquisitely performed. The band describes its sound as "like a soundtrack for a movie, a movie with weird and strange stories," and indeed, each CD is like a book of short video stories, each differing in subject and mood. The band's gem-like compositions, each as intricate as an **Escher** drawing and entertaining as fun-house mirrors, have been praised as "ominous, ferocious, and zany...complex musical mayhem" [*Sea of Tranquility*], exuding "a darkly comic dysfunction **Tim Burton** would give his eyeteeth for." [*Michigan Independent*]. Miriodor's distinctive compositions and rigorous musicianship have identified it as the main Canadian exponent of the R.I.O. (Rock In Opposition) sound with a light-hearted, unpretentious, and sincerely entertaining twist.

Miriodor was formed in Quebec City in 1980 by **Pascal Globensky** and **Francois Emond**. By the end of 1983, it solidified its lineup as a sextet and began recording its 1st LP, **Rencontres**. Self-released in 1985, **Rencontres** was a "classic" progressive rock album; it remains the only symphonic rock with vocals recording in Miriodor's oeuvre. By 1985, members Emond, Globensky, **Sabin Hudon**, and **Rémi LeClerc** had relocated to Montreal and reformed Miriodor as a quartet. The band released **Tot au Tard**, a cassette of recordings made by the Quebec City and Montreal lineups. In 2006, Cuneiform reissued the lp and cassette as a CD titled **Rencontres**, delighting progressive rock audiences. Critic Peter Thelen "Highly recommended" the CD as "...a meeting ground of many of the best elements progressive rock has to offer", noting that 1980s Miriodor was "a perfect marriage between the more chamber-oriented sound of bands like **Univers Zero** and (later) **Henry Cow**, and the more symphonic woodwind-oriented sound of bands like **Happy the Man** and **VDGG**."

By the late 1980s, Miriodor – a trio after Emond left the band – began to attract worldwide attention. **Chris Cutler** published a Miriodor song in England's **ReR Quarterly**. The US-based **Cuneiform** label signed Miriodor and released all of the band's subsequent recordings, beginning in 1988 with the band's 2nd LP, the self-titled **Miriodor**. Immediately afterwards, Miriodor performed at **FIMAV**, the prestigious international festival of **New Music/Musique Actuelle** held in Victoriaville, Quebec. It subsequently toured France and Belgium and, in 1991, released its 3rd record, **Third Warning**.

In late 1993, guitarist **Bernard Falaise** joined Miriodor, bringing to the band a sharper, 'grittier', more rock-based sound. Between then and Miriodor's 1995 recording, **Elastic Juggling**, saxist Hudon left the band. **Elastic Juggling** received widespread critical acclaim; *All Music Guide* gave it four stars, praising its "concise, intricately arranged compositions and sudden shifts in mood from one typically short track to the next..." Its accessible yet sophisticated, genre-defiant music appealed to a wide range of festivals, and soon Miriodor played at the **International Computer Music Congress**; made its USA debut in 1996 at Baltimore's progressive rock festival, **ProgScape**, and played at the **Montreal Jazz Fest**. In 2000, Miriodor played at **Edgefest**, a festival of avant-garde music held in Ann Arbor, MI.

In 2002, Miriodor released **Mekano**, its 5th album. It marked the debut of Miriodor's current lineup: a new bassist and keyboard player, **Nicolas Masino**, joined long-time members Globensky (keyboards), Leclerc (drums) and Falaise (guitar). While the quartet

(This press release is continued on the next page...)

jointly produced the band's compositions, it invited a trio of guests - **Marie-Chantal Leclair** (saxes), **Marie-Soliel Bélanger** (violin), and **Némo Venba** (trumpet) – to augment the band's sound. Widely praised by specialty rock critics as one of the year's best, *Mekano* received a perfect rating - 5 stars - from *Sea of Tranquility*. *Alternative Press* noted that "what makes the current band so impressive is the graceful, almost effortless way they execute all their complex musical moves, with scarcely a trace of irony or self-conscious cleverness."

Immediately following *Mekano*'s release, Miriodor performed at the 4th annual **NEARfest**, 'the most prestigious progressive music festival in the world.' Performing before an audience of 1,850 in the **Trenton War Memorial Theatre** on June 29th 2002, Miriodor was the festival's surprise hit, converting hundreds of first-time listeners into devoted fans. Miriodor's NearFEST appearance established the band's reputation as world-class performers, and proved that their witty and sophisticated tunes were both accessible and thrilling to audiences typically drawn to more mainstream music. Miriodor returned to NearFEST by request to perform at the 2003 pre-show. Additional festival appearances followed, with Miriodor playing again at **Edgefest** in 2004, appearing as a headliner at Portugal's sold-out 2005 **Gouveia Art Rock Festival**, and performing at the 2005 **Guelph Jazz Fest**.

In 2005, Cuneiform released Miriodor's 6th release, a double CD consisting of the band's new studio recording, *Parade*, on Disc 1, and a live recording of their 2002 NEARfest performance on Disc 2. Italian critic Massimo Ricci called the release "easily...the best avant-progressive music I've heard in the new millennium." *Parade* featured Miriodor's well-established performance ensemble - the Miriodor quartet and long-standing guests Belanger and Leclair - as well as a very special guest who was one of Miriodor's musical heroes and a founding member of the RIO movement: the late **Lars Hollmer**, who recently died, on Christmas 2008. The Swedish Grammy-award-winning composer and accordionist/keyboardist had composed, co-composed and performed on 3 tracks for *Parade* for an immensely successful collaboration. Disc 2 of Miriodor's 2005 release, *Live at NEARfest 2002*, was the band's first live release; *All Music Guide* noted, "The biggest kick might be hearing the band win over the crowd as the set progresses...the 1,800-plus audience seems to realize what a phenomenal performance it is witnessing, and erupts with thunderous applause." The double-disc release prompted *Exposé* magazine to note that: "Miriodor is certainly one of the hottest bands in the business right now on Cuneiform.With these two new recordings Miriodor stands as the premier ensemble from their home country and on an international stage."

Following the release of *Parade + Live at NEARfest*, Miriodor began working on new material and playing twice at the **Le Festival des Musiques Progressives de Montreal (FMPM)**, French Canada's annual international festival of progressive rock.

Miriodor's new CD, titled *Avanti!*, is the band's seventh release. When asked to supply some thoughts on *Avanti!*, band member **Pascal Globensky** replied:

*"Fortuitously placed under the sign of number seven, Miriodor's seventh album contains seven songs...for a total of 60 minutes of dense and twisted music, à la Miriodor. The band, now in its 30th year of existence, has attained a level of cohesion and complicity that sometimes baffles even its more recent members, those who have only been around for 15 years or so... At the core of this production are the usual partners in crime : **Bernard Falaise** (guitars, stringed instruments, etc.), **Pascal Globensky** (keyboards, synthesizer, piano), **Rémi Leclerc** (drums, percussion, sampler) and **Nicolas Masino** (bass, keyboards). On this album, we tried to develop our playing as a quartet, so about half the album has no outside guests, no sequences and just a few overdubs. On the other pieces we are joined by **Pierre "The Preacher" Labbé** on tenor and barytone saxes, regular acolyte **Marie-Chantal Leclair** on soprano saxophone, and **Maxime St-Pierre** on trumpet."*

Avanti! celebrates the Miriodor quartet and key collaborators as the band approaches its third decade. Whereas the music is typically 'Miriodor' — each tune a sonic mini-movie that explores a mood, theme or idea (often reflected in the song titles), the sound is fresh, incorporating new sonic and stylistic elements. Miriodor's albums since *Jonglieres* typically featured numerous guests; however, *Avanti!* contains several tracks featuring only the quartet, undubbed. *Avanti!* also differs from prior albums, in that Miriodor here handles all mixing "in house". Falaise did the mixing and production for *Avanti!*, adding innovative touches that add a new dimension to Miriodor's music without overwhelming the integrity of the underlying musical work.

The artwork on *Avanti!* likewise conveys a new, fresh aesthetic. The CD features stark, near-monochrome, and stunningly elegant photographs of Miriodor members by the Quebecois photographer **Patrick La Roque**. Some of the photos show figures in blurred motion, reflective of the "on the move" musical compositions and the album's title. Miriodor's releases are notable for championing the Quebecois visual art scene; the band carefully selects a local artist for each of its releases, and often the musical and visual themes on each release reflect each other. On *Avanti!*, Miriodor prove themselves to be one of the most "progressive" bands in the world, in the true sense of the word "progressive": Miriodor's music remains on the move, as the band continues to explore realms of new sonic richness to construct tuneful new compositional delights.

To celebrate the release of *Avanti!*, **Le Festival des Musiques Progressives de Montreal (FMPM)** has invited Miriodor to headline their three-day international festival, on the final night, September 13, 2009. For more information, see: www.fmpm.net

For more information, please see:
www.miriodor.com

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS:



(credit for all: Patrick La Roque)

DIGITAL [HIGH-RESOLUTION / COLOR] VERSIONS OF THESE IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON
WWW.CUNEIFORMRECORDS.COM IN THE "PRESS" SECTION.

BIOS OF MIRIODOR BAND MEMBERS:

BERNARD FALAISE

Composer, improviser, guitarist, and producer **Bernard Falaise** is one of the most adventurous and multi-talented genre-defying musicians on Montreal's current musique actuelle scene. The Montreal native began taking violin lessons when he was age 6, switching to guitar when he was 14 year old. Falaise later studied jazz guitar at Cegep St-Laurent and received a B.A. degree in composition from Montreal University. The first group that he played in 'professionally' was **The Sleeping Signature**, an alternative rock band whose singer, **Patrick LaRoque**, would much later design the cover of Miridor's *Avanti!* In 1993, Falaise joined Montreal's premiere avant-progressive ensemble, **Miridor**, and has remained an integral member of that musical co-operative ever since, as lead guitarist and a co-composer. His first-ever recording of his music career was on *Elastic Juggling/ Jongleries Elastiques*, Miridor's 1995 Cuneiform release; the CD brought international critical acclaim to both Miridor and Falaise, whose electric guitar energized the band's sound. Since then, Falaise has recorded on Miridor's 3 subsequent Cuneiform releases, and recorded with various groups on more than 30 albums, most released by **Ambiance Magnetiques**. In addition, he released two solo records on Ambiance Magnetique: 2000's *Do*, featuring computer-generated compositions for electric guitars, and 2007's *Clic*, which won the **Quebec Counsel of Music's** 2008 **Opus prize** for best New Music/ Musique Actuelle CD.

A true musical polymath who remains unbound by working techniques, categories or genres, Falaise is active as both a improvisor and a composer, and as a performer and a producer. An energetic collaborator, he belongs to a wide range of bands. Besides Miridor, Falaise is a member of the eclectic avant-rock/world music **PapaBoa** and the experimental **Les Projectionnistes** – all three of which also include Remi Leclerc as a member. He also belongs to the improv group, **Klaxon Gueule**, and has worked on other projects with its leader **Michel Côté**, as well as with **Robert M. Lepage** and **Frank Martel**. In addition, Falaise belongs to **L'Ensemble Pierre Labbé**, **Foodsoon**, **Mecha Fixes Clocks**, **Nozen**, **Barnyard Drama**, and **The Unexpected**. Falaise has also played and/or recorded with guitarist **Rene Lussier**, **André Duchesne's Diesel**, **Pierre Cartier**, **Urbain Desbois**, **Diane Labrosse**, **Pierre Cartier**, **Mélanie Auclair**. A member of **Le Band de poètes**, Falaise collaborated with poet **D.Kimm** for a 2006 release on **Monsieur Fauteux**, and performs his own song cycle, *Vache qui veut vole*.

Besides working as a performer, Falaise is active professionally as a composer, equally adept in such wide-ranging genres as classical / world music/tango/avant rock and beyond. Falaise writes for his own solo projects, co-composes in bands he belongs to like Miridor, and writes pieces for other ensembles to perform and record. Falaise wrote a composition for the classical tango ensemble **Quartango** that appeared on their CD *Expresso*, which won the **1996 Félix Award** for world music. He has also written pieces for the **Bozzini** quartet, **Pentaèdre**, the all-sax **Ensemble Quasar**, **Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal**, **Bradyworks**, and others. In addition, Falaise has written music for theatre, dance, television, and film, including the music for **Robert Lepage's** film "Nô", co-written with **Côté**.

In addition, Falaise is in-demand as a record producer. In 1999, he co-produced an album by singer and cellist **Jorane**, and in 2000, produced and played on *La Maline*, a critically lauded CD by pop singer and actress **Marie-Jo Thério** that blended avant-garde music with folk. He since worked as a producer on numerous CDs, for such artists as **Frank Martel** and **Les Païens** (from Moncton). Falaise was the producer for Miridor's newest CD, *Avanti!*.

PASCAL GLOBENSKY

A keyboardist and composer, **Pascal Globensky**, is the co-founder of Miridor. He first began playing music when he was a teenager. Teaching himself to play acoustic guitar, by age 18 he was playing both classical and 12 string acoustic. About three years later, he began playing piano; he subsequently began playing both electric and synthesized keyboards. While self-taught as a musician, he studied languages at **Université Laval** in Québec City and received a B.A. in specialized translation from **Concordia University** in Montreal. Outside of Miridor, Globensky works professionally as a technical translator.

In 1979, while living in Quebec City, he co-founded his first band – **Miridor** – with multi-instrumentalist (violin, keyboards) **François Émond**. At the end of 1980, Globensky and Emond recruited 2 other musicians, **Remi Leclerc** and **Paul Dussault**, thus marking the debut of Miridor as a full "band". Miridor has remained the primary focus of Globensky's musical career. The band's longest-surviving member, Globensky has helped guide this Francophone musical co-op through a move from Quebec City to Montreal, several changes in line-up and

instrumentation, 7 full-length releases (co-composed jointly by all band members), and an on-going stylistic evolution that has continued to surprise, delight, and captivate audiences over the band's 30 year career. Currently, Globensky plays electronic keyboards in the band: a Yamaka KX-88 Midi controller, equipped with various sound modules.

Besides his work co-composing music with Miriodor, Globensky has composed music independently. During the early 1980s, he composed two pieces for the dance company **Dansepartout**, headquartered in Quebec. He has also composed pieces for personal enjoyment. In 1999, with the rest of Miriodor, Globensky co-composed the music for "**Almanach**", a documentary film by **Denys Desjardins** on the arriving new millennium. The documentary was produced by the **National Film Board of Canada**.

RÉMI LECLERC

A drummer/percussionist, composer, and co-founder of several of Montreal's most beloved avant garde bands, **Rémi Leclerc** is one of French Canada's most active drummers, widely respected among the international avant garde. A key fixture on Montreal's New Music/musique actuelle scene, featured on many **Ambiances Magnétiques** releases, Leclerc's sensitivity and range as a percussionist has also made him in-demand as an accompanist to numerous mainstream Quebecois musicians, including Francophone singer/songwriters and pop stars. Self-taught as a musician, Leclerc has recorded on countless releases and toured internationally with a variety of different artists. Academically, he received degrees in Electrical Engineering from **Université Laval** and studied Art History at the **Université du Québec à Montréal**.

Miriodor is Leclerc's longest-standing, on-going band. He is one of the group's first members—having joined in late 1980 in Quebec City – and has played on every Miriodor release. Leclerc's other current projects include membership two famous ensembles lead by trombonist Claude St-Jean : **L'Orkestre des Pas Perdus** (since 1993, 4 CDs), a riotously popular Montreal brass-band that combines jazz, funk, cabaret, and Zappa-esque avant garde, and **Les Projectionnistes** (since 1995, 2 CDs).

Recently, Leclerc began playing with Quebecois slam artist **Ivy** and accompanying several singers, playing in the jazz/blues/western swing **Susie Arioli Band** (since 2005, 2 CDs/DVDs), and with award-winning vocalist **Andrea Lindsay** (since 2007) and vocalist **Thomas Hellman** (since 2003, 3 CDs). Leclerc has performed, toured and/or recorded with a number of popular, mainstream Francophone vocalists, including the pop star **Gaële**; Acadian singer **Fredric Gary Comeau**; world renown Francophone singer/songwriter **Robert Charlebois** (2000-2002, 1 CD), Acadian folk/pop singer/actress **Marie-Jo Thério**, Armenian singer/songwriter **Lousnak**, Quebecois singer/songwriter **Jean Leloup** and Quebecois traditional folk music singer/story-teller **Michel Faubert** (1991-1999, 3 CDs).

Most often, however, Leclerc has worked with New Music/musique actuelle groups, including numerous avant garde world music/jazz bands. He spent a decade in both the genre-defying experimental/eastern folk/groove project **Papa Boa** (1991-2001, 1 CD) and **Paul Kunigis'** world music band, **Jeszcze Raz** (1996-2006, 4 CDs); as well as working with **Bernars Falaise's** project **Vache qui veut vole**; the French/Italian folk-pop/world fusion group **Roverselli** (2003-2006, 1 CD); and circus group **La P'tite Fanfare**. From 1987-1997, he was the drummer for **André Duchesne's** various projects (**Les 4 Guitaristes de l'Apocalypso-bar**, **Diésel**, **L' ou'L**, **Locomotive**), touring and recording 3 CDs for **ReR Recommended**, **Ambiances Magnétiques**, and **Victo**.

From 2000-2007, Leclerc worked with guitarist, multi-media artist and anti-globalization activist **Sylvie Chenard's** *les Projets de la baleine*, and from 1992-2001, he worked and recorded with **Jerry Snell**, the singer, socio-political artist, experimental musician who co-founded Montreal's renown dance theater company, **Carbone 14**. Leclerc has also worked with **Ligue d'improvisation musicale de Montréal** (2003-2008) and **Cabina Obscura** (2006-7), and played on the 2006 CD *Le Silence des Hommes* by poet **D. Kimm** and **Bernard Falaise**.

Besides working professionally as a musician, Leclerc also does professional audio visual work for **College Ahuntsic**, **L'Arsenal à Musique**, **Le Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal**; **Le Musée des Beaux-arts du Canada**, and **Le Centre de diffusion de la photographie VOX**.

NICOLAS MASINO

A classically-trained pianist and professional musicologist, **Nicolas Masino** began playing electric bass because, in his words, "it was such a cool instrument." He began taking piano lessons when he was 6 years old. Masino would later study at the University of Montreal, from which he received several degrees, including a BA, an M.A. (Master of Arts) in piano, an M.M. (Master in Musicology), and a Ph.D. in musicology. His Master's thesis was about the integration of modern classical and popular influences in **Frank Zappa's** music, and his recently-completed Ph.D. deals with **Stravinsky's** neoclassical period.

Besides co-composing works with Miriodor, Masino has composed various pieces of chamber music and scored several movies. As a performer, the first rock band that he played in was, in his words:

*"a long forgotten band whose name was probably its best asset: it was called **Jim Bacon & the Eggs**. It was essentially a pop group who had the good idea to integrate influences of **Violent Femmes**, **The Cure**, **Jane's Addiction** and, more improbably, **Simple Minds**, **David Bowie**, and various things we had been listening to during the 80s."*

For several years during the late 1990s, Masino was also a member of **Les Projectionnistes**, a Montreal avant-garde jazz / experimental rock/ musique actuelle band who performed music to accompany surrealist silent films. Nicolas played bass and piano on the band's first CD, *Copie Zero* (1999), released by **Ambiance Magnetiques**; two other Miriodor members who also belonged to Les Projectionnistes, **Bernard Falaise** and **Remi LeClerc**, also appear on that disc. Miriodor is the only band that Masino is currently involved with. Miriodor is the only band that Masino is currently involved with. His more socially redeeming activities include being a professor at the **Collège Lionel-Groulx**, in Ste-Thérèse, Quebec since 1994, where he teaches music theory, history and aesthetics, and spending as much time as possible with his three children.