

Bio information: **MIRIODOR**

Title: **PARADE** (Cuneiform Rune 208/ 209)

Cuneiform promotion dept: (301) 589-8894 / fax (301) 589-1819

email: Cuneiform2@aol.com [publicity & promotion]; CuneiformRadio@aol.com [radio]

http://www.cuneiformrecords.com

FILE UNDER: ROCK / AVANT PROGRESSIVE ROCK

Over the past two decades, French Canada has become an artistic hotbed, producing some of the most innovative music and performing arts to come out of North America. Looking internally and to Europe for inspiration while ignoring the mainstream music industry to their south, some artists from **Quebec** are producing work that is highly original and even groundbreaking. Examples of Quebec's singular art include the world-famous circus, **Cirque du Soleil**; and such singular and uncompromising bands and musical cooperatives as **Ambiance Magnetiques**, **Godspeed You Black Emperor!**, **Rouge Ciel**, and **Miriodor**. The French-speaking province has long been renowned for its progressive music scene. The avant-progressive band Miriodor, active for 25 years, is the longest lived and most startlingly creative band to emerge from Quebec's vibrant progressive scene. If the visual fantasy, originality and grace of the Cirque du Soleil's acrobats could be translated into a musical score, it would be the music of Miriodor.

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. Their compositions, each as intricate as an **Escher** drawing and entertaining as fun-house mirrors, have been praised "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 highly-distinct compositions, influenced by European folk music, and its rigorous musicianship have identified it as the main Canadian exponent of the European-based **RIO (Rock In Opposition)** sound. *Audion* have stated that Miriodor present a "complexly classical French twist on the RIO sound, notably with a side step from **Art Zoyd** and **Univers Zero**, with many a unique twist of their own." It is Miriodor's specifically **French-Canadian** twist on RIO that has won them acclaim as the RIO band for those intimidated by RIO; while complex, Miriodor's music is light-hearted, unpretentious, and sincerely entertaining.

Miriodor was formed in Quebec City in 1980 by **Pascal Globensky** and **Francois Emond**. By the end of 1983, the band solidified its lineup as a sextet and began recording its 1st LP, *Rencontres* (1985 self-release), Miriodor's most 'classically' progressive release. By 1985, members Emond, Globensky, **Sabin Hudon**, and **Remi 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, some of which were later reissued.

By the late 1980s, Emond had left the band and Miriodor, a trio, began to attract worldwide attention. It signed to the U.S. based **Cuneiform** label, which released its 2nd LP, the self-titled *Miriodor*, in 1988. Immediately afterwards, Miriodor performed at **FIMAV**, the prestigious New Music/Musique Actuelle festival in **Victoriaville**. The band toured Europe and, in 1991, released its 3rd record, *Third Warning*. In late 1993, guitarist **Bernard Falaise** joined Miriodor, bringing a more rock-based sound to the band's next recording, *Elastic Juggling*, released by Cuneiform in 1995 to widespread critical acclaim. Shortly afterwards, Miriodor made its U.S. debut at Baltimore's **Progscape** festival and performed at the **Montreal Jazz Festival**. Saxist Hudon eventually left the band.

In 2002, Miriodor released *Mekano*, its 5th album. It marked the debut of Miriodor's new lineup: a new bassist and keyboard player, **Nicolas Masino**, joined long-time members Globensky (keyboards), Leclerc (drums) and Falaise (guitar). While the quartet 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 progressive 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. With a lineup consisting of the Miriodor quartet (Globensky, LeClerc, Falaise, Masino) and guest players Leclair and Bélanger, it played music from *Mekano* and *Elastic Juggling* and converted literally hundreds of first-time listeners into devoted fans. One newly-converted British critic noted with astonishment that: "they are as tight as a gnat's ass on stage." Active on the festival circuits for both New/ Avant Music and progressive music, Miriodor played at Ann Arbor's **Edgefest** and was recently a headliner at Portugal's sold-out 2005 **Gouveia Art Rock Festival**.

Miriodor's 6th release is a double CD consisting of the band's newest studio recording, *Parade*, on Disc 1, and as a bonus, a live recording of their 2002 NEARfest performance on Disc 2. Disc 1/*Parade* features Miriodor's well-established performance ensemble - the Miriodor quartet and long-standing guests Belanger and Leclair - as well as two new, special guests: Canadian bassoonist, **Lise Millet**, and Grammy-award-winning composer and musician **Lars Hollmer**, from Uppsala, Sweden. Longtime admirers of Hollmer's work (**Samlas Samma Manna**, **Von Zamla**), Miriodor asked him to collaborate on this release. Hollmer contributed a song he had written, "Tarika"; co-wrote two other songs with Miriodor - "Foret Dense" and "Bonsai" - and played on these three tunes. As released, Disc 1/*Parade* consists of 16 splendid tunes under 7' each, most written by the Miriodor quartet, which are played by musicians with exquisite chops and excellently recorded. Like other Miriodor releases, each tune is given two different titles - one French, one English - that serve as witty guide-cards illuminating the song. Disc 2/*Live at NEARfest 2002*, is Miriodor's first live recording. The flawless and highly spirited performance proves Miriodor to be an amazing live act. Parading the band's talents both in the studio and on stage, the double-disc *Parade* is one of Miriodor's most impressive releases to date. Like other Miriodor releases, the double CD features visually stunning and thematically clever artwork commissioned by the band from French Canadian artists specifically for the project. *Parade* shows Miriodor on the march, sculpting new facets into its shimmering compositions, refining and polishing its talent and growing more brilliant over time.