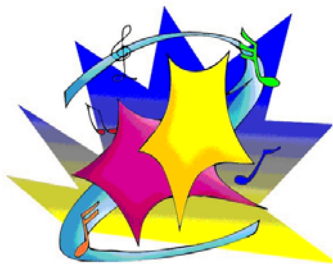


Fabry-Perot and The Sodium Fringes



By Senior Music Editor – Jeri B. April 1 2002



Those of you who have been living under an igneous rock somewhere south of Java and haven't heard of Fabry-Perot and the Sodium Fringes – you're in for the experience of a lifetime! Although the band was formed around 1899 in the beautiful country of France, their international tours are rare and obtaining tickets for their shows next to impossible. For the uninitiated, here's brief summary of the band's career.

Their first studio album, *I Eat Spectral Lines For Breakfast*, came out soon after the calendar rolled past 1900. Critically acclaimed as an unprecedented breakthrough in the relatively young Interferometry genre, their multi-layered sound manages to come together in an elegantly coherent blend of organized interference. The first single from the album, *Equal Inclination*, climbed the US contemporary charts and held on to the number one spot for a record seventeen weeks, beating the previous record holding number one hit, *Beam Splitting* by soloist A. A. Michelson.



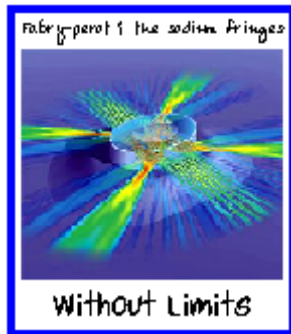
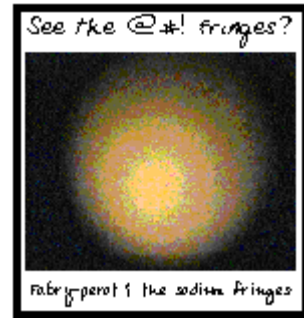
Like many new artists, the overwhelming success of their debut album was disorienting and threatened the stability and functionality of the group. In addition to their dramatic shift into the limelight - the winds of change were moving through the music scene with the fury of a monsoon, leading to an period of upheaval both within and surrounding the unassuming group of Frenchmen.



DJ Max Planck

While Fabry-Perot and the Sodium Fringes headed back to the studio after a whirlwind tour of Europe and North America – other names were emerging onto the scene. A. A. Michelson's last release, *Luminiferous Ether*, had sold less than 10,000 copies and was soon buried in Theory Records skeleton closet with the rest of music's greatest failures. Refusing to be discouraged, Michelson produced his smash hit album, *Speed of Light*, in an extensive recording marathon. A little known artist, DJ Max Planck, saw a surge in his previously released album, titled simply - *h*. The Nobel winning Niels Bohr Quartet forged new territory in 1928 with their release of *Duality*, a fusion of classical and contemporary styles that took that year by storm.

Into this upheaval, the Fringes released their follow up album, *See the @#! Fringes?*, to mixed reviews. The second album had a razor sharp edge that belied the tension and frustration the band had felt during the recording sessions. *Tedium*, the first release from *See the @#! Fringes?* was banned in the UK and only a carefully censored version was played over US airwaves. It would be several decades before the Fringes found the perfect balance between high resolution and adaptability. Meanwhile, individual members of the Fringes began to pursue solo projects. The band's spokesman and manager Yellow Doublet issued a statement from the Fringes, "...we want to take our time with the next album....truly develop ourselves as artists before we attempt another studio record."



After a much-needed break and with a renewed sense of creativity, the Fringes reunited and returned to the studio for their third album. The result was a masterpiece of diverse sounds and themes brought together in an eclectic two CD set entitled *Without Limits*. Proving the adage - third time's the charm - *Without Limits* has become a necessary addition to any respectable music collection. *Orbiting*, *Bowtie LASER*, *Upper Atmosphere*, and *Microscope* all reached the number

one spot

despite fierce competition from dance club favorite Quantum Mechanic and pop idol Albert Einstein as well as newcomers Electron Diffractions and Hubble.

Regardless of musical preference, Fabry-Perot and the Sodium Fringes have produced many valuable additions to the music scene. Each time through their albums brings a fresh and illuminating facet of the music to your attention. If you're new to the Fringes, get out from under your rock and find your way to the nearest Optical Records store!

You won't regret it. ☺

