

PEPE DELUXÉ  
presents:

# liner Notes Galore

six times a writer



Don't just take our word for it, read what they say!

**T**here are three main ingredients to the complete experience of a record album: **the music, the artwork and the liner notes.** Early albums were *literally* albums: collections of heavy and fragile 78 rpm records housed in book form. They were sold in plain brown sleeves, with a cardboard outer jacket and just the name of the artist stamped on the front. In 1939 Alex Steinweiss, employed by Columbia

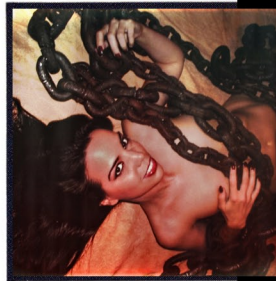
Records, created the first illustrated cover for an album of 78 rpm records. Nine years later he designed the packaging for the new 33 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> rpm records: a thin cardboard sleeve, covered with printed paper. It was this revolutionary format that also gave birth to the last missing part of the holy record trinity: liner note prose.

We have always loved **the thoughtful essays** on the back

covers of records from the heydays of LPs. There was simply no room on the new Pepe album itself, but could we still fit liner notes *somewhere*? Hmm... yes we could! Being strong believers in the motto “**anything worth doing is worth overdoing**”, we decided to send out not just one album but six albums to a special liner note task force of six **Very Unique Characters (TM)**. Here's what we got in return:



## MORGAN THE ESCAPIST



Photos L to R: just another day at work, chain reaction & Tang Soo Do Black Belt action.

12 tracks of weird, groovy, I-don't-know-what... This album not only defies classification, it lures it down a dark alley and pummels it with a stick then picks up the labels that fall from its pockets like loose change. That being said, Go Supersonic is surely the theme of the spandex clad hero that races to it's timely rescue. And at that a highlight of the album as well as the song that crawls into your brain and refuses to leave. The Pepe Deluxé Stepford treatment.

Replete with many a strange instrument, a Stalacpipe organ, Tesla coil

synthesizer, the distinctive Hammond Organ (with a spinning Leslie?) and, what even appears to be a Therman, there is the very real risk of gimmick over music. Such is not the case. Dangerously eclectic choices are masterfully blended into the landscape of this pop opera and at no point does the novelty run off with all the glory.

If Captain Nemo were a surfing, time traveling, mod-squad style spy, Nikola Tesla would be his wing-man and this would be their soundtrack.

- Morgan

### *Morgan: built for beauty, trained for danger*

*"James I love this album. I swear I'm going to steal Go Supersonic and use it in my show."*



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## *the Sorceress Misty Lee*



Photos by Kevin McShane (L to R): lounging at the cemetery 1 and 2 & gaze into the crystal ball.



*"Let me sing a song for you. Let me spin a tale that's true. A story 'bout the days of light – the days before the darkest night..."*

A Medium waits in a darkened parlor. You approach her – nervous, eager to connect - but apprehensive. Danger hangs in the air. You sit. The Medium extends her hand and smiles as the music starts. Electric flashes sear the room. The coils beckon: your call to adventure. Will you travel?

You depart, and are initiated.

First contact is a villain's soul. Once peaceful and happy, now thumping and arid. You feel his eyes narrow, his jaw set, and his course of action solidify in real time.

The magic carpet veers. The ride continues: The rise and tempted turning of a hero. A kingdom crumbles. A still and lonely drift on rainy sea.

Upon returning to the parlor, the only thing that's changed ... is you. The Medium has vanished, for the music did the work. You are alone, and you are different. Deeper. Better.

'Queen of the Wave' isn't just a new album by Pepe Deluxé. It's a journey – a monolithic undertaking by unparalleled talents, whose creativity is so

colossal they had to construct a Stalacpipe Organ and consult Tesla himself to accommodate their vision. This music is your ticket to an odyssey.

Will you travel?

- Misty Lee

*When not communing with the dead, Misty enjoys tormenting the living – particularly her husband, TV producer, screen-writer and comic book legend Paul Dini.*



## *the scientist - Professor of Astronomy Esko Valtaoja*

One proposed solution to the Fermi paradox [1], the lack of contact from advanced cosmic civilizations, is that, based on our radio transmissions, the aliens assume us to be either too simple (known as the “Mostly Harmless” hypothesis [2]), or too boring (known as the “Oasis” hypothesis [3]) to be worth contacting. A more sinister version of the solution, lately advocated by Stephen Hawking [4], is that we should keep radio silent and not attract the attention of far more advanced and aggressive cosmic supercivilizations. However, since the first regular radio broadcasts were made already in 1919, our presence is already well advertised within a sphere of 93 light-years. Using the current best estimate for local stellar mass function [5], we calculate that within this volume there are  $10^{108}$  stars, arguably a sufficient number to include at least one nefarious alien species.

The new album by Pepe Deluxé, *Queen of the Wave*, now poses a serious challenge to the assumption of tellurian mediocrity. In fact, the album encourages us to put forward a new solution to the Fermi paradox, in essence an inversion of previous explanations for radio silence. Following Hawking and the numerical estimates presented above, we assume that our presence has indeed been detected and the aliens are on their way to attack the Earth, having from eavesdropping our earlier radio transmissions deduced that we are of a very limited mental capability. We can now conclude that the aliens are gravely mistaken in this, as demonstrated, in particular, by *Go Supersonic* and *Grave Prophecy* on the new Pepe Deluxé album.

As the first Pepe Deluxé album, *Super Sound*, was released already in 1999, the radio waves emanating from its airplay are presently 13 light-years out there. It is quite possible that they have already reached the advancing alien attack fleet, and the ship captains are now slamming on the brakes, making desperate U-turns to avoid contact with a civilization they thought easily conquerable, but which has now been revealed to be in possession of cosmic, not to say cosmological, intelligence and powers.

Interestingly, our hypothesis is testable. Assuming standard antimatter technology (with either  $p - \bar{p}$  or  $e^- - e^+$  annihilation, see [6]), and emergency braking using full engine power (a reasonable assumption considering the circumstances), we calculate that the gamma-ray exhaust from even a single ship should be detectable with the Fermi gamma-ray telescope [7] over an integration period of a month. (The exact calculation is presented in Appendix A\*.)

Finally, we note that the escaping aliens, naturally maintaining total radio silence, will, very appropriately, be bombarded with the magnificently threatening drum sounds of *The Storm*, deepened by the Doppler shift.

- Esko Valtaoja

**References.** [1] Fermi, E., private communication. [2] Adams, D., *Mostly Harmless*. Pan Books (1979). [3] *Oasis: Definitely Maybe*. Creation (1994). [4] Hawking, S., <http://dsc.discovery.com/videos/stephen-hawkings-universe-fear-the-aliens.html> (2010). [5] Just, A., and Jahrei, H., “Towards a fully consistent Milky Way disk model – I. The local model based on kinematic and photometric data”, *Monthly Notices R. Astron. Soc.* 402, 461 (2010). [6] Harris, M.J., “SETI through the gamma-ray window: A search for interstellar spacecraft”, *Lecture Notes in Physics* 390, 300 (1991). [7] Atwood, W.B., et al., “The Large Area Telescope on the Fermi Gamma-Ray Space Telescope Mission”, *Astrophys. J.* 697, 1071 (2009).

\*) Not available here due to copyright restrictions.





Standing 50 ft tall and weighing 320 tons, Dr. Evermor's *Foreveron* is a titanic construction somewhat misleadingly billed as world's largest scrap metal sculpture. Among other things it contains the decontamination chamber from the *Apollo 11* spacecraft.

### *the explorer*

**Dr. Evermor:** "When he was a child, Dr. Evermor witnessed a massive electrical storm with his father, a Presbyterian minister. Asked where lightning came from, his father told Evermor that such awesome power could come only from God. From that day on, Evermor dedicated his life to constructing an antigravity machine and spacecraft that would catapult him on a magnetic lightning force beam from the phoniness of this world to the ultimate truth and power of the next."



**Queen of the Wave:** "One can understand the fantastic challenge and achievement it took to put this all together with a kind of uplifting spirit tone. Now with your composure of things, one can recognize all the instrumentation and the blending of natural and manufactured vibrations. You have done an excellent job. Got the sense that some of these songs would work well in movies."



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**Forevertron and music:** "Dr. Evermor's Time Machine along with the Bird Band, at some point in time, should be wired up with fiber optics, so that it has visible movement of some kind with the music portraying a flowage of energy. We hope we can spin that at the level of extra – terrestrial or intergalactic. We also have built five Komodo Fantasy Dragons with cylinders as the back scales, which you can play music and have all different tones that sound like Tibetan Bells that ring and hum."



**The Future:** "Twenty-five or thirty years ago, one of the music divisions of the University down in London England had done all kinds of research work and found that the most outstanding music on the planet were the sounds that came out of Indonesia. They were ranked at the top (Dr. Evermor doesn't know what they were using as benchmarks to make that kind of judgment), it over powered classical, or anything that was developed in America. Maybe this is making a statement... The best is yet to come."

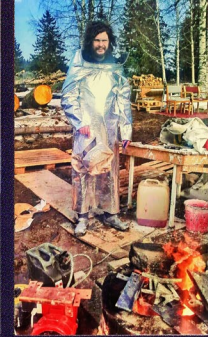
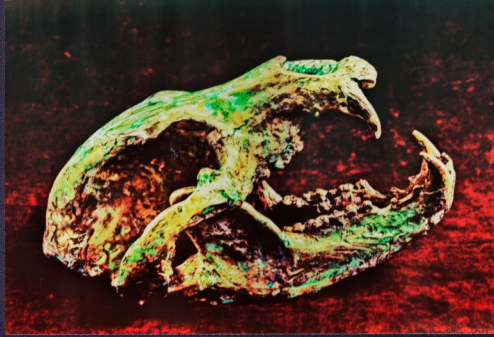


There is a Teahouse with a commanding view for the Royalty and a telescope (above) for the Doubting Thomases.



Dr. Evermor contemplating his journey.





### the mystic

Photos (L to R): a cast bronze bear skull, Kim-Peter with Archbishop Leo, the process of creation, a large exploded copper plate at the Valamo monastery.

## a Mystic and a Dynamite Artist Kim-Peter Waltzer

on the Oriental carpet flows crystal, a wretched stream of glass from the oracle's leaking shell –

the tinkling sound intoxicating assembling the fragments and the reflected faces of damnation into one matter unites into substance in time an Arcanum forms –

the silk carpet succeeds in carrying the steps of generations, dustlessly – a man of glass is shattered and returns to glass – a laughing soothsayer be-caped in camel hair his boney fingers guide the stream into a cave –

the glass itself lights the way and the reflections are quicker than the shadows the dripstones were indeed fingers that clash against each other beating out a rhythm for the snickering dance of life and death

there fell one Tower of Babel here another rises

the rain forest grows it rains on itself then floods – the water bursts its banks and carves out a lost canyon for the river –

the forest fails to keep in rhythm and dries where its stands, drawn like matchstick men – the desert returns and the wind blows the sand –

a green crystal oracle is carved out there are the colours of the creation its lips shaped into a holy 'bah' and once again there is room on the silk carpet for dustless steps –

the camel-hair cape is born anew and as we await its wearer let the crystal oracle sing a song of the forgotten to be an echo-sounder for the awakened

- Kim-Peter Waltzer

A BIG "thank you" goes to all the writers who participated in this last Album Companion and also to all the people who made Queen of the Wave happen!

PEPE DELUXÉ ALBUM COMPANION V / 5



## the Empress



The first Victorian age: before moving to the USA Johann Gustafson, the Grandpa of Lowell (the head honcho of Asthmatic Kitty) was a tailor for OSCAR II, the King of Sweden.

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria has asked me to convey to you Her warmest thanks for the CD-record you so kindly sent to Her.

Yours faithfully  
Holtz GJ  
secretary

The second Victorian age: Sweden's future Queen, H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria, whose music library has recently been upgraded by the most Deluxé of all gentlemen.