

GOD

Extremities

"There were giants in the earth in those days..."
(Genesis 6.4)

Avant jazz, industrial noise, experimental dub, tribal hip hop. The connection? The connection is GOD, the eleven man retribution on a stagnating musical underworld. And forget any mercy from this unholy deity - GOD are demons in demonskin.

The grigori responsible is Kevin Martin, veteran musician, producer, club promoter, journalist and graphic artist. With more strings to his bow than most, Kevin has assembled as his own 'dream reality', the multi-headed beast GOD. Along the way he has collaborated with Godflesh's Justin Broadrick as TechnoAnimal, with Sonic Boom, Kevin Shields and Eddie Prevost as E.A.R., and with Justin, Dave Cochrane, John K. Flesh and Alex Buess as Ice. He operates the Pathological label, releasing material from the likes of 16-17 and Ice, writes for The Wire and Tower's Top and has compiled a collection of Isolationist music for Virgin's 'A Short History of Ambient' series. A busy little devil, but his driving force is, and always will be, GOD.

To the beginning then...

"Basically, there are two stages to GOD as far as I'm concerned. The first stage was up until the band I put together for 'Loco' (PDCD 1991), up until that point we'd mostly played with American noise bands and the line-up was probably more straightforward. I just got totally pissed off that every review associated us with imitating either bands like the Butthole Surfers, Swans, or with the British noise scene which at the time would have included AC Temple, Playground..., most of which I still don't feel any affinity to."

"So I felt it was wrong - it wasn't just noise. About the only thing that actually brought the band together at that point was a love of jazz. I think that's about the only thing we had in common. We felt we had to accentuate the

things that we felt were original, accentuate the individuality generally. By doing that, it was a case of recruiting people who were like minded"

"Someone like Tom Hodgkinson (the Work/Henry Cow), not because I particularly like anything he'd played on but more because his attitude as a person was right... And it was an important political thing because I said to the band at the time that if we made these changes we wouldn't make any money out of this, it would purely be for the love of what we were doing and for the chance to make music we could feel passionately for and not treating it as a commodity."

"Obviously; it is a commodity as soon as it's in the marketplace but no decisions are made on that basis, which is a help and a hindrance. It's frustrating, nearly all the time, working with GOD because bands won't want us to support them, partially because they think that it's going to be complicated having ten people on stage. Also because it's going to be very loud and they worry about us stealing their dynamic on stage."

The line-up currently holds at ten players, with Alex Buess of Swiss experimentalists 16-17 guesting on bass clarinet for their latest "Anatomy of Addiction" (Big Cat 1994), saxophonist Tim Hodgkinson, guitarist Justin Broadrick, Russell Smith again on guitar (Skullflower, ex AR Kane and Terminal Cheesecake), Tom Prentice's electric viola (E.A.R.), bassist Dave Cochrane (Ice, ex Head of David and Sweet Tooth) and Gary Jeff, John Edwards (B-Shops for the Poor) on double bass, and Scott Kiehl (ex Slab and Sweet Tooth) and Lou Ciccotelli (Margaret's Moonshake and ex Slab) on percussion.

GOD have never fitted cleanly or neatly into one particular genre, something which must be both a hindrance and an advantage.

"The problem with not fitting in a genre is actually a really personal thing for me because as a teenager I never felt part of any clique. I'd mix with my best friend at the time who was a Rockabilly DJ, or I'd mix with punks, or I'd mix with friends who were making power industrial music. I was happiest doing that because as soon as you fit into a genre you make decisions through compromise, or through peer pressure.



That's something I've never been comfortable with. Most of the music I hold dearest is stuff that is completely original - Miles Davies' stuff in the seventies, the Birthday Party, Captain Beefheart, Can - these are people who developed their own vision and their own voice"

Kevin Martin will be shaking up a few more preconceived notions shortly with the release of a remix EP featuring the likes of Bill Laswall,

Kevin Shields (EAR/MBV), New Kingdom and Justin Broadrick. As for his non-GOD projects, a new Ice single will see the light of day soon through new American label CarCrashh, and a TechnoAnimal album with Justin Broadrick is recorded and ready to go.

Demons to some, angels to others, GOD cannot be ignored.