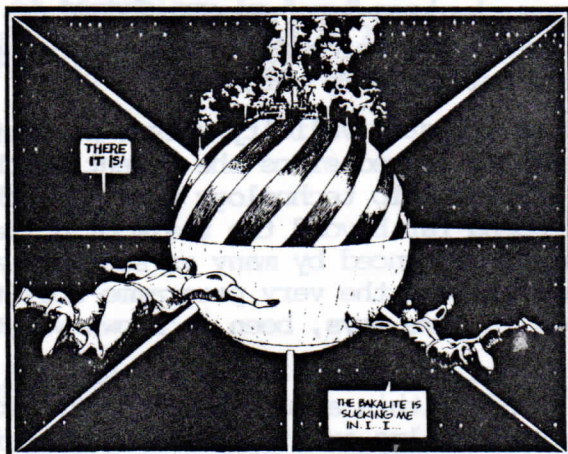


# OSCILLATOR



VOL.1  
Issue 1.

## "ARTY-FARTY" Vs. "BUT, CAN YOU DANCE TO IT?"

They're lining up now under starters orders at the big new electronics venue "ELECTRONIC MUSIC CLUB", at the Central Club in Richmond. There are four main starters in this, the first big one for 1983. "Arty-Farty-Culturati" in barrier one a good track record, but has been in the hands of many trainers. This could be the right venue for some bigger success. Next along, we have "Units in the Market"-only a youngster, in this field but showing plenty of early promise, and from a successful stable. In barrier three we've got "A Foot in Both Camps"-a bit of a dark horse this one, but has done well on a few outings. Hasn't had many runs, but could easily cause an upset today. Over in the far barrier, nicely set in the middle of the track, we have "But, Can You Dance To It?"-a big favourite with the crowd and evens on the course. This one's a class performer - a real showman, and the EMC venue seems ideal for a good fast run to an easy win. It's a testing course, and we might be in for a few surprises.



ELECTRONIC MUSIC CLUB.

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## EDITORIAL

I'd like to be the first to welcome you to Melbourne's newest venue, and the only one dedicated to good quality electronics orientated music. And this won't be 'just another venue', since the aim is to provide a meeting place for the exchange of ideas, opinions and information about synthesizers, computers and their relationship with music.

The question of artistic validity versus popular appeal has been very strongly argued since the advent of the electronic "new-age". Silicon chip technology has taken the artificial treatment of sound far beyond the realm of guitar amplification, (which was denounced by many as soulless and mechanical at its inception) and the very programme-ability of digital equipment has, in some ways, been its own worst enemy.

Most people do not experience much diversity of electronic or synthesized sounds within a musical concept, except perhaps in sound tracks to films or commercial advertising. Certainly not in Australian popular music via the radio, and the 'alternative' label on bands implies instant obscurity and a total non-interest on the part of financial sponsors or record companies. It also implies 'Cult' (ie. extremely small audience) following. Yet the 'mainstream' or 'commercial' or 'pop' label can be grossly restrictive of form, lyric, structure, length and overall sound. However, bands like Depeche Mode, Yazoo, Blancmange, The The, Laurie Anderson, and The Flying Lizards have produced some interesting music, using unusual sound effects or unexpected arrangements, which are great to dance to and these have helped blur the barriers between 'commercial' and 'arty-farty'.

Local bands work in many different parts of the music spectrum. Some, like Pseudo Echo are pitching themselves at a specific market. Others, like Modern Jazz are redefining audience/musicians expectations. Whilst some, like Human Backs, are committed to visual entertainment and humour within a complex and innovative structure.

This venue will provide the very latest in electronically inclined music from the import and local records and tapes in the disco, played by Joseph (of 'Metal Beat' the 3RRR-FM electronic music show 12:00-2:00 Sat nights), through the exclusive videos, both imported and recorded off such shows as, "Rock Around The World", through the exposure opportunity being given to every type of electronic or synthesizer band



at this venue, and finally through the medium of this newsletter, which is a part of the benefits of membership of the EMC. New bands will be reviewed and interviewed, and the newest developments in musically-based computer technology and synthesizer equipment will be regularly reviewed in detail by independent specialists. Film and T.V. will also be covered. We will have future gigs from such diverse sources as the Informatics, Software Seduction, Ritual Dance Group, and Nuvo Bloc to name just a few. Any other interstate or visiting overseas bands will also be featured.

This is a venue to enjoy the best electronic dance music, and to experience the electronic music scene in all its manifestations.

Please use the Edit-Mode for any suggestions, feedback, intelligently-articulated abuse, and offers of artwork, ideas, contributions and energy.

AND REMEMBER - IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ELECTRONIC MUSIC, THEN EMC IS THE PLACE TO BE IN '83.

#### IMPORT RELEASES

##### April L.P.s

RICHARD BONE, electronic wiz-kid from New York, now living in and having success in England, released his debut album "BRAVE TALES" (Survival Records). Contains 12 tracks. I say: "Best buy of the year". Soon out as picturedisc.

HEAVEN 17 released their second L.P. as Heaven 17 on the 29th. Called "THE LUXURY GAP", contains a few tracks previously released as 12" singles. Steering away from pure electronics, ie., real string orchestra, lots of great "artistes" playing guitar, piano, etc. Don't be shocked - blends well. Could this be a new direction?

## April Singles

April 1st saw release of 2nd single of O.M.D.'s 4th L.P. "DAZZLE SHIPS". Called "TELEGRAPH", comes in both 7" and 12" versions. The 12" is (of course) extended with nice percussive breaks not on L.P. or 7"

DONNA SUMMER had "LOVE TO LOVE YOU BABY" (the incredibly synthesized disco track) reissued as a 12". Side A, is the 16 mins. version; side B is the edited 8 mins. A must.

"TEMPTATIONS", the single by HEAVEN 17 off their current L.P. is out, with dance remixes not on the album. Side B, "WE LIVE SO FAST", is at breakneck speed.

New electronic duo (What? Not another one.) THIRTEEN AT MIDNIGHT issued "CLIMB DOWN". They're turning heads in England. Watch out for them: an interesting new band.

THE (HYPERTHETICAL) PROPHETS take "PERSON TO PERSON" off their debut L.P. "AROUND THE WORLD WITH..." (released Jan.) as their current single. Lyrics are taken from personal adds and strung together. Interesting composition. Listen well.

April 29 - BLANCMANGE with new single "BLIND VISION". B side contains a track from the short movie "DUET", for which the duo wrote the noises (ie: soundtrack). 12" contains 2 tracks from the movie.

Ex-Buzzer, Pete Shelley has a new single hot on the heels of "TELEPHONE OPERATOR". It's called "NO-ONE LIKE YOU". It's received favourable reviews already in England.....

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The very latest in synthesizer technology -  
the "SYNFAIRCLAVELITE 2000 ST 1A".

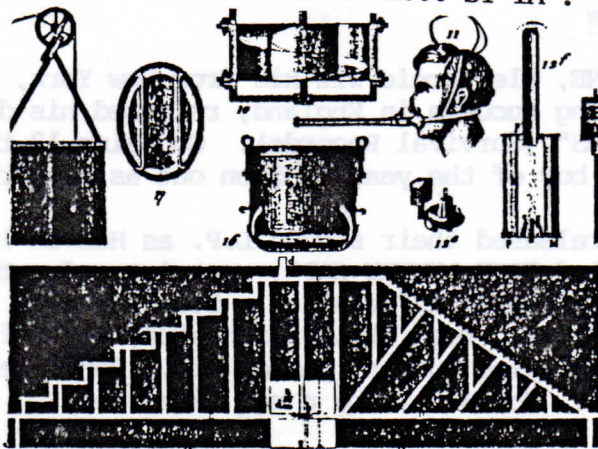


Fig. 11 shows instructions for home use of light-pen.



Newie L.P. about to come out of Genetic Records. "PALE SHELTER" is the new 5th single for those melancholic angst-ridden lads: TEARS FOR FEARS. In fact, it was their 2nd single, but now that they're big, why not reissue it and cash in?

Been hanging out for the new KRAFTWERK L.P. "TECHNOPOP"? Well don't. It was due for release late April/May, but it's now been announced: "not completed!!!". Release date cancelled, projected English dates (and hence Australian dates) cancelled, cancelled, cancelled. Wait for a few months yet.

#### MAY OFFERINGS so far....

DAVID BALL ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Durocell Duo, SOFT CELL) intends to release his debut solo L.P. on his birthday, May 3rd. So, where is it? He's the most inventive and musical of the two.

DUO EMMO (really a trio with MR. MUTE RECORDS himself DANIEL MILLER), released their debut L.P. "OR SO IT SEEMS", named after the 12" single from Feb.

Eccentric Swiss electronic trio, YELLO, have their 3rd L.P. available, titled: "YOU GOTTA SAY YES TO ANOTHER EXCESS". Another must for your record collection.

One of my favourite musos, BILL NELSON, who has just completed work with Y.M.O., now has available a 6 track mini-L.P., known as CHIMERA. Much of it is the result of work he did with Y.M.O.'s percussionist YUKHIRO TAKAHASHI. Billy boy is now busy producing (dare I say it) GARY NEW-MAN's (sic) forthcoming L.P.

Our old favourite VINCE and ALF (ie: YAZOO) have brought out their 4th single on MUTE. Release date: May 9, titled "NO-BODY'S DIARY" and, "STATE FARM", is out as both 7" and 12". They're busy recording new 2nd L.P. due later in '83.

JEANETTE (the artist who SURVIVAL records have their highest hopes on) released her debut single called "THE MORNING". Nice, simple electro-pop with very cute, pretty vocals. Sparse.

## NEW MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

A few years ago Robert Chappelle (Ozone Music) was quoted in "Future Life" magazine to the effect that the synthesizer would become the guitar of the future. As advances in technology have led to cheaper, more flexible synthesizers and synth-computer interfaces, that prediction is being borne out. Today the all-synthesizer band is common and nearly all bands make some use of electronic keyboards. The days when King Crimson used a synthesizer (VCS-3) for filtering the singer's voice (21st Century Schizoid Man) are gone forever.

In the decade 1965-75, rock evolved away from dance music in a variety of different directions - singer/songwriters like James Taylor and Joni Mitchell, the drug induced stasis of psychedelic music and the symphonic extensions of "progressive" rock. The last eight years or so has seen a return to the "basics" of rock but with a new vocabulary and technique. Revival music is reactionary - the message is that the old ways are better. By contrast, contemporary music, while espousing the ideals of older forms of rock, does not attempt to realize these ideals through the recreation of older forms.

The synthesizer is an ideal tool for "new" music. Capable of enormous intensity, it also offers tremendous freedom. "People complain about the synthesizer being a machine" Chappelle once said, "But I'd rather play a machine than be one". What he meant was that a guitarist or a drummer must emulate a "machine" to produce the strict rhythmic structures required by modern rock music. A synthesizer can be programmed to do this necessary but unrewarding (by human standards) task so that musicians can be liberated to the more important roles within the overall structure of the music. At one time this idea was considered heretical and the "human element" impossible to recreate. That feeling has subsided, leaving in its wake music as diverse as Human League, Laurie Anderson, Icehouse and Cabaret Voltaire.

One of the crucial aspects of contemporary music is the technology and the way it is utilised. There are as many ways of using a synthesizer as there are ways of writing a conventional song, and the equipment available directly Infl-



uences the final result in a way we have not previously experienced within music.

The role of technology in "new" music is more symbiotic than in any other genre and it is the applications of this technology that we will develop in future articles.

David Cahill

### IMPORT RELEASES

....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....

CABARET VOLTAIRE (yes, you remember them) have just signed to STEVO's label: SOME BIZZARRE. New material due soon. Also due: New MARC AND THE MAMBAS L.P.

My favourite and yours, the agile FAD GADGET, became crippled FAD GAD during his recent performance in Amsterdam. Making one of his spectacular leaps into the audience, Faddy didn't notice the moat. Bang! Crash! Instant invalid! Fad continued the show in true professional spirit before being rushed to hospital and told he fractured 2 heels and had torn ligaments. As a result, last five gigs cancelled.

THE RESIDENTS, electro-bizzarro anonymous musos, are to tour England in June. This will commence a European tour. Their forthcoming L.P. will complete their MOLE trilogy. If you're into EMULATORS, you'll love THE RESIDENTS.

BILLY CURRIE, ex-ULTRAVOX, ex-GARY HUMAN, ex-VISAGE, ex everything else, has now left VISAGE (again). In future, he'll concentrate on ULTRAVOX and a solo project. It seems STEVE STRANGE is hard to work with. Funny about that.

....That's it for the May releases. Next newsletter:- more reviews and releases and more forthcoming news, tours, gossip etc.....

FUTURE SHOCK

DONO DETTI  
&  
PSEUDO ECHO

-

MACY'S - FRI 27th May.

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BLISS BOMBS  
&  
SHANGHAI AU GO-GO

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EMC - MON 23rd May.

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LUB DUB  
&  
IDES OF MARCH

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EMC - MON 30th May.

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SYNTH BANDS AROUND:

SCHISM, SOFTWARE SEDUCTION, NUVO BLOC, INFORMATICS

-Please let us know if your Synth band wants a listing-

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AD. RATES:- \$20.00 full page (A4 size)

Contact: Michael Ph 531 2388

SEE YOU LATER OSCILLATOR!!!