

ARCTIC



biography

ARCTIC draws much of its sonic inspiration from the vast expanses of the northern landscape where frontman Marcus Martin was raised. Growing up in Yellowknife, Martin would join his father, a pilot, on trips to remote settlements and camps in the Northwest Territories of Canada. "There are some things that stick in your mind forever like a first concert, a first date, a first prize," recalls Martin. "For me it was the first time I truly saw the world from the front seat of a DC3 plane, looking at the endless openness of the north, its beauty, its shape, its air, its syncopation with all that existed in its hands."

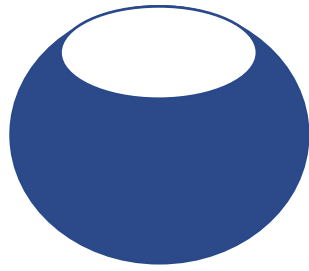
Martin's flightpath carried him to Toronto, where he honed his skill as a guitarist in styles from acid jazz to heavy metal. The coastal beauty of Vancouver drew him west in 2002, and ARCTIC emerged from the rain as his solo project. Using a looper and effects to sample and layer his live guitar performance, drawing from diverse and contrasting influences, he developed his own distinctive style of haunting and evocative melodies and textures that the *Georgia Straight* would later call "the most captivating oddity to come out of Vancouver this year".

In 2006 Kirsten Starcher found herself inexorably drawn to the music and brought bass, keyboards and backing vocals into the mix. Backed by a blend of acoustic and digital drums, the newly-formed electropsych band took on a pulsating, hypnotic groove, swirling around Martin's guitar loops and plaintive vocals.

After multiple Canadian tours and appearances at NewMusicWest, NXNE and Westfest, sharing stages with the likes of Danny Michel, Marianas Trench, Ken Tizzard, Dan Mangan and Hannah Georgas, ARCTIC was invited to tour in Europe in Fall 2010 as support for French band Bruxelles, where the band's intense and dynamic live show was enthusiastically received.

ARCTIC has released four EPs independently as well as digital singles: *Music for Rain* and *Today Brought Me Here* showcase Marcus Martin's solo work, while the evolving sound of the full band is heard in *Unbeliever* and *Live at Zaphod Beeblebrox*.

ARCTIC is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. For more information, contact Punchface Propaganda Machine at ppm@punchface.com.



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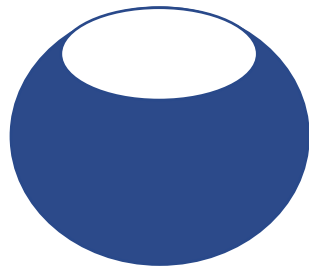
performance history

- **Sept-Oct 2010:** Tour of France
 - **Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Spring 2008:** Cross-Canada Tours
 - **Westfest 2009**
 - **NewMusicWest 2007 Showcase**
 - **NXNE 2006 Showcase**
 - **NewMusicWest 2006 Showcase**
 - **NXNE 2005 Showcase**
 - **NXNE 2004, Westfest, NewMusicWest, Western Canadian Music Awards**
- Marcus Martin - Guitarist with Adrienne Pierce

discography

- 2009:** Live at Zaphod Beeblebrox
- 2008:** Unbeliever
- 2007:** Today Brought Me Here
- 2003:** Music for Rain





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quotes and reviews

"The guitars are like hot-coiled snakes, the drum patterns seem totally random, and the vocals are almost as unintelligible as Thom Yorke at his most out-there, but damned if this isn't the most captivating oddity to come out of Vancouver this year."

The Georgia Straight

"Capturing the feeling of the Arctic region in music would be quite the task for any band. It's no surprise then that ARCTIC - the band created by Marcus Martin, native of the Northwest Territories - divides listeners. Often pegged as everything from Radiohead to Yes, ARCTIC's mixture of lush prog rock, brooding folk, and electro ambient has claimed one of Westfest's 2009 headlining sets."

Cormac Rea, Ottawa Xpress

"...Their melancholic harmonies mix in dark, haunting folk and ethereal art-rock akin to Radiohead or Fleet Foxes. Plus, if there were a soundtrack to the Arctic, a set of sounds that properly represented desolately beautiful spaces, this would be it. ARCTIC sounds, well, like the Arctic. It's bleak but meaningful music, like a distant light faintly illuminating a piece of tundra, despite everything else around it being pitch black."

Echo Weekly

"Actually, what Today Brought Me Here sounds like is a sane version of Thom Yorke's The Eraser - and that is meant to be a compliment because ARCTIC's intense focus means better songs. Some may take awhile to warm up to the electronic backdrops, but with Martin's lush vocals and the band's slow brooding build-ups, ARCTIC are bound to melt even the coldest of hearts."

Popjournalism

"Cool in their own special sort of way."

Chartattack