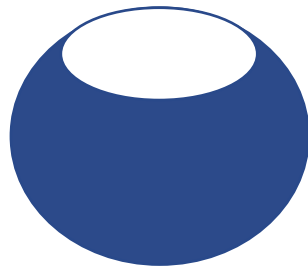


ARCTIC



ARCTIC

## ***biography***

**ARCTIC was formed out of frontman Marcus Martin's desire to never, ever be in another band again.**

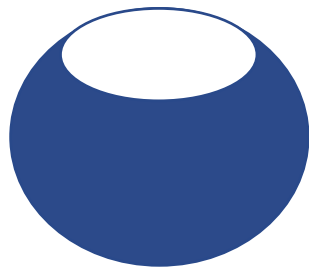
After a childhood spent on the land in the isolated Northwest Territories of Canada, the guitarist travelled to the metropolis of Toronto and became involved in projects ranging from jazz to metal to rap. After dealing with the roller-coaster frustrations of band politics, he went solo, and headed west to Vancouver to write his own music. He began performing using a looping device that would allow him to record, modify, loop and layer his acoustic guitar performance into a haunting moodiness evocative of a cold Northern landscape. With a rich, unique sound of his own that was already gaining an audience, he had no need for backing musicians.

But strong music always attracts interest, and as time went on, others expressed a desire to join the project. Following two solo cross-Canada tours as ARCTIC, Martin was invited to open for a CD release party. On a whim, he put a trio together for the show. The full band version of ARCTIC was instantly picked up by a local promoter, and began to perform regularly around Vancouver. Despite his initial wariness, Martin found that adding band members added new dimensions and possibilities to his music - and by working with colleagues who were equally inspired by his music and vision, the band's spirit became collaborative instead of confrontational.

Kirsten Starcher, already involved with production of ARCTIC's second EP, *Today Brought Me Here*, became the band's bassist, keyboardist, and backing singer. In 2007 they were joined by Todd Biffard on drums, whose creative blend of acoustic and electronic percussion would complete the trio's spacey sound.

Always seeking contrast, ARCTIC is still sometimes a solo project, sometimes a full band, never exactly the same from one show to the next. In either form it combines diverse influences in unexpected ways: progressive rock, jazz, industrial rock merge with ambient textures and acoustic singer/songwriter melodies to create something fresh, unconventional and intriguing.

ARCTIC is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. For more information, contact Punchface Propaganda Machine at 604.880.6376 or [arctic@projectarctic.com](mailto:arctic@projectarctic.com).



ARCTIC

## *discography*

**2007:** Today Brought Me Here

**2003:** Music for Rain

## *performance history*

Marcus Martin has toured Canada as a solo artist, with **ARCTIC**, **Punchface**, and as a part of the **Adrienne Pierce** band.

### *highlights*

**Cross-Canada Tour May/June 2008**

**NewMusicWest 2007 Showcase**

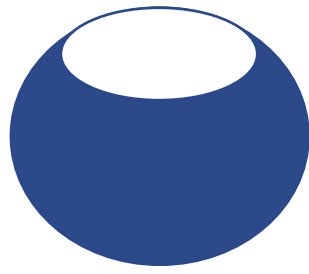
**NXNE 2006 Showcase**

**NewMusicWest 2006 Showcase**

**NXNE 2005 Showcase**

**NXNE 2004, Westfest, NewMusicWest,  
Western Canadian Music Awards**  
Guitarist with Adrienne Pierce





ARCTIC

## ***quotes and reviews***

"As I sat at the back of The Art Bar watching this performance, I quickly realized that this was the type of performance that I could just lean back, close my eyes, and float on the music... His songs have an ambient folk rock feel to them and are very enticing musically, with the lyrics tending to invoke some beautiful imagery."

**Being There Magazine**

"...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**

"I stayed for the entire show and was thankful that so many people suggested Arctic. Had there not been such a strong buzz about the band with the people that I had talked to, I probably would have gone home without ever having heard them. I think that goes to show the power of word of mouth!"

**Dillsworth Blog**

"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**