



ARCTIC

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. Frustrated by the roller-coaster ride 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 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, Martin was invited to open for a CD release party, and on a whim put a trio together for the show. ARCTIC was instantly picked up by a local promoter, and began to perform regularly around Vancouver. Despite his initial wariness, Martin found that adding members added new dimensions and possibilities - and by working with colleagues who were equally inspired by his music and vision, the band's spirit became collaborative instead of confrontational.

Always seeking contrast, ARCTIC is 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.

## ***a few facts***

- Two releases: Today Brought Me Here (2007)  
Music For Rain (2003)
- ARCTIC held an auction of their latest CD master to support the World Wildlife Fund.
- Today Brought Me Here has no CD cover, but fans can design and print their own at ARCTIC's website, and view interactive liner notes.
- ARCTIC is sometimes a solo project, sometimes a band. Over time it has grown to include Kirsten Starcher on bass and Todd Biffard on drums.

## ***reactions***

"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*

*Three Acts Not to Miss at the NewMusicWest Fest: ARCTIC, Richard Dorfmeister, Armchair Cynics*

"It's rich, airy, and yes, a wee bit haunting. Just sit back, close your eyes, and let the loops and layers wash over you..."

*24 Hours*

"Cool in their own special sort of way."

*Chartattack*

## ***contact***

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