

Basementia Records

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

“Many Styles Merged by FlumergeX”

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Portland, OR – The songs are bold musical explorations influenced by a variety of stylistic genres, including Celtic, swing, Middle Eastern, funk, trance techno, and classic rock.

“This One” is the new CD by FlumergeX, now available online from Basementia Records at www.basementiarecords.com/display.php?id=1.

To create this album, instruments including mandolin, sitar, clarinet, doumbek, tablas and congas as well as acoustic and electric guitars, acoustic and electric bass guitars, layers of keyboards, a full drum kit and an electronic drum machine were all played by songwriter Jesse Smith, who also sang vocal parts on five of the CD’s 13 songs.

“This One” includes a new arrangement of “The Purple Paisley Jig,” an old favorite which Smith penned way back in 1995. This new interpretation layers the song’s original Celtic jig guitar duet over a modern electronic dance beat, and mixes in other electric and synthesized sounds for a uniquely psychedelic effect.

The instrumental exploration of blended cultural sounds is woven throughout the album, expressed in the Eastern melodies of pieces such as “Sheherazade’s Sister,” “The Turkish Frenzy” and “Chera Tessa.”

Some of the songs ponder spiritual themes, including the laid back swing “The Key to Happiness,” the edgy existential “Vishnu’s Dream,” and the dreamlike trance state of “The Ritual,” the latter featuring words from an actual pagan ritual.

The inspirational, freedom-loving, deeply political rant appropriately titled “Soapbox” addresses important issues of the day, including warrantless wiretapping, the war in Iraq, global warming and social justice. A caution to parents: “Soapbox” does contain profanity. Says Smith, “I plan to do a video for Soapbox and post it on YouTube, but with my schedule, it probably won’t happen for a couple months at least.” Smith says he definitely hopes to have the video posted well before the 2008 Presidential elections.

“This One” also features impressive cameo appearances by other virtuoso musicians. Jon Rigby played two of the many layered hand drum tracks on “The Ritual.” Rigby’s intricate hand drumming was previously featured on one song of the 2004 Basementia Records release “Barnlife” by The Mushtones. Andrew Hoke played the organ track on the closing rocker, “Industrialysis.” Hoke is presently the keyboard player for Rogue Motel, which has played at the Doug Fir Lounge, and recently returned from a West Coast tour. Hoke has many performance

credits to his name, including The Burners and Operation J; most famously, he was the keyboard player for the popular Grateful Dead tribute band, Ramblin' Rose.

The songs were recorded a track at a time in Smith's rented housing between May of 2005 and August of 2006. The album was mixed by Moon St. Clair at the Matrix Coffeehouse on August 24, 2006. Subsequent delays held up the production process, but eventually Basementia Records hired local digital media manufacturer CD Forge to produce the first run of professionally replicated discs, complete with a colorful front cover photograph by Lindsey LaRock.

The songs were all written and arranged by Jesse Smith. Smith has been playing the guitar since 1988, and began playing the piano as early as 1980. Smith studied musical performance and theory through college; and later he found work as a music teacher himself, at a small private school in Cairo, Egypt.

Before Flumergex, Smith was the guitarist and lead singer for Portland-based experimental rock band Operation J. Before going on permanent hiatus in 2006, Operation J put on many highly charged performances at venues such as the Ash Street Saloon, strip club Dino's Inn, and the Twilight Café. The band was also featured on an hour long special aired on local access cable television. Smith also formerly performed as stunt guitarist for freak metal band The Plushies. He presently gigs most frequently as bass guitarist for blues-jam band T. Ray and the Shades.

In fact, Smith considers Flumergex something of a side project, as far as live performances are concerned: he has teamed up with Hoke on accordion and Rigby on hand drum to do some all-acoustic performances at a few local open mics, but despite the positive reception they received, so far these are the only public gigs Flumergex has played.

Asked about future Flumergex performances, Smith concludes, "There will be more. I can't say when, but there will be more."

In the meantime, T. Ray and the Shades have several upcoming gigs scheduled, including at Rock Creek Tavern in Hillsboro and Boones Treasury in Salem. See www.trayandtheshades.com/code/gigs.htm for details.

Basementia Records is a Portland-based recording and online distribution company specializing in the promotion of independent local artists. The Basementia Records website at www.basementiarecords.com offers music for sale by a variety of creative talents. The site also features sample songs which stream via an online media player built by Basementia Design. Unsigned and self-produced artists are encouraged to contact Basementia Records with questions about selling their creations online; for a limited time, there is no setup fee.

Basementia Records is a division of Basement Productions, Inc., a Portland-based multimedia promotions company with branches devoted to specialties including website design and commercial printing. More information is available at www.basementia.com.

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