

OFFICIAL EVENT PROGRAM

NEARFEEST

2002



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Spaced Out • La Torre dell'Alchimista

June 29th and 30th, 2002, Patriots Theater, The War Memorial, Trenton, NJ

NEARfest



Antoine Fafard bass guitar • **Martin Maheux** drums
Mark Tremblay guitars • **Eric St-Jean** keyboards

Anchored by the nimble fretwork of world-class bassist **Antoine Fafard**, **Spaced Out** forges a very original progressive/fusion sound uniting complex rhythm patterns, eclectic melodies and innovative arrangements. Spaced Out's music is very structured but allows the players freedom of expression through improvised solo sections, imparting a strong jazz fusion vibe.



In the mid-1990s Fafard put together an amateur band with his drummer brother **Olivier**, called **Cortex**. (one song on the 2nd Spaced Out CD dates from this early period.) Spaced Out was to follow a few years later after many personnel comings and goings. Fafard relates the beginnings of Spaced Out: "I put together Spaced Out in 1998 with drummer **Martin Maheux** whom I met in university when we were studying music. We were set to record my compositions in the studio so I asked **Mathieu Bouchard** (guitar), a college pal, to record the guitar tracks. At that time, we were playing with a sequencer. Later, I asked **Eric St-Jean** (keyboards) to play with us live & to record two tracks on the CD. After the first album, Mathieu didn't have the time to be an active member in the project, so he was replaced by **Louis Côté**, another university colleague. Even though this band is my personal project, I didn't want to call it the 'Antoine Fafard Band' so I thought that Spaced Out was a cool name..."

In 1998, the newly minted Spaced Out quartet recorded a six-song self-financed demo. Realizing the good sound quality of the demo, the band decided to release it on their private label as their first official album, simply titled **SPACED OUT**. Though initial sales were minimal, it did spark the interest of Montreal-based **Michel St-Père**, who runs the small independent progressive label **Unicorn Records**. But before a deal with Unicorn was inked in 1999, the band was again put on hiatus. Maheux went on a national tour with the Francophone Saskatchewan pop act **PolyEsther** and Fafard was involved in music for a television production. Once the band reconvened, two new songs were recorded to flesh out the first album, for re-release on Unicorn in the fall of 2000. This album was well received in the prog community, garnering strong reviews. Fafard cites **Keith Emerson**, **King Crimson**, and **UK** as some of his major influences on the debut Spaced Out CD. One can indeed hear some echoes of technical fusion guitar master **Allan Holdsworth** in Bouchard's playing, and **Terry Bozzio** influences can be gleaned from Maheux's furious drumming. **Exposé** called the debut Spaced Out album "Very inspired fusion of the highest order...One of the best surprises in recent memory".

