





Spaced Out is the brainchild of bassist & composer Antoine Fafard. He formed the band in 1998 recruiting Martin Maheux on drums, Mathieu Bouchard on guitar and Eric St-Jean on keyboards. From then onwards, the group began producing their brand of jazz oriented progressive rock whilst being inspired by a variety of musical styles along the way. In the year 2000, Unicorn Records released the band's self-titled debut Spaced Out.

Following the release of that album, Bouchard left the group and was replaced by Louis Côté. In 2001, the album Eponymus II was released showcasing a more progressive sound compared to the previous CD, allowing the band more room for musical experimenting and exploration.

In June 2002 Spaced Out participated at the prestigious North East Art Rock Festival (NEARfest) in Trenton NJ with Mark Tremblay taking over guitar duties from Cote. Mark has stayed on as SO's guitar player to this day. The band's performance was received with great enthusiasm, raising Spaced Out's popularity to another level. The Slow Gin album was released in March 2003 and was the result of the band taking an even more progressive route.

In late 2005, the Spaced Out - Live in 2000 DVD was released, a recording of one of Spaced Out's first concerts. The following album entitled Unstable Matter was released in July 2006. That record pushed Spaced Out's music even further into it's composing, musicianship & production qualities. After a performance at the Crescendo Festival in France in August 2006, the band released a CD and DVD of the concert and started to compose music for the next album to be titled Evolution was launched in October 2008 at the FMPM festival in Montreal.



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EVOLUTION
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LIVE AT THE CRESCENDO FESTIVAL
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UNSTABLE MATTER
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SLOW GIN
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EPONYMUS II
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Critique de Spaced Out – Spaced Out

Magazine : Exposé
Issue : # 22
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Year : 2001



Spaced Out – “Spaced Out”

(Unicorn UNCR-5001, 2000, CD)

Spaced out. Space rock or psychedelic music, right? WRONG! Fooled this writer also... what we have here is an instrumental trio from Québec playing some very inspired fusion of the highest order. The core of the band is drummer Martin Maheux and bassist Antoine Fafard, who also handles programming, all compositions and production. There are two guitarists (both exceptionally good) who play on the album, track depending, and additional keyboards on two cuts, which leads this writer to believe that the disc was recorded over a period of transition between line-ups. It doesn't hurt the album a bit though—the music here totally smokes from beginning to end! A convenient comparison might be the Japanese band Keheel, or even Kenso—although unlike Kenso, the keyboard work here (actually triggered MIDI-programming in most cases) is limited to a support role, providing coloration, background washes, and such. It's the guitar and rhythm section that's really driving the show throughout, and both guitarists turn in a hell of a performance, with driving melodics, great tones and lightning solos. Fafard's five-string bass sometimes has that punchy sound, not unlike Chris Squire on those early Yes albums, and Maheux's drum work ties it all together nicely. The best thing about Spaced Out is that their compositions are constantly evolving and changing, which bodes well for many repeat listens. In all, this is one of the best surprises in recent memory. My highest recommendation. — *Peter Thelen*

INTERVIEWS: Art & Mysteri, Jeff Gaskela, Riko Shira, Gorta Marie

FEATURES: McGill Manning, Crocans, Corneille vs PES vs Jay, Raje 2001

EXPOSÉ

Issue No. 22

THE SOUND OF SUCCESS: NEARfest 2001

by Peter Thelen, Photo by David Boudreau

NEW & REMIX

- The **Spaceman** Sound Project's new power trio support CD of the same name is a must-have for all space rock fans. The album features the band's original material, including "Space Rock," "Space Rock," and "Space Rock." The album is a must-have for all space rock fans.
- **Neil Young** has a new album, **Neil Young Live Through This**, which is a live album recorded in 1993. It features the band's original material, including "Neil Young Live Through This," "Neil Young Live Through This," and "Neil Young Live Through This." The album is a must-have for all Neil Young fans.

CONTENTS

- **Spaceman Sound Project** - Peter Thelen
- **Neil Young** - Peter Thelen
- **McGill Manning** - Peter Thelen
- **Crocans** - Peter Thelen
- **Corneille vs PES vs Jay** - Peter Thelen
- **Raje 2001** - Peter Thelen
- **Art & Mysteri** - Peter Thelen
- **Jeff Gaskela** - Peter Thelen
- **Riko Shira** - Peter Thelen
- **Gorta Marie** - Peter Thelen

Critique de Spaced Out – Eponymus II

Magazine : Progression
Issue : # 40
Country : USA
Year : 2002

SPACED OUT: *Eponymus II*

2001 (CD, 53:25); Unicorn UNCR-5003

Style: Zeuhl fusion

Sound: ★★★ Composition: ★★★ Musicianship: ★★★

Performance: ★★★ Total rating: 14

You've never heard anything quite like Spaced Out. A French Canadian quartet, their version of Zeuhl fusion suggests a strange hybrid of Weidorje or Jean-Paul Prat, sans horns, and Return to Forever, with occasional Emersonian keyboards, and then some. There is even a bit of minimalism in the appropriately titled "Glassosphere — Part II," suggesting an outtake from *Akhnaten* with Philip Glass-style repetitive arpeggios.

Antoine Fafard uses Jannick Top's style as a springboard for his bass stylings, with savage power and that famous buzzing sound. Other influences include Jaco Pastorius and especially Stanley Clarke. Guitarist Louis Cote is a mighty impressive virtuoso at times reminiscent of the late Tiemko's Remy Chauvidan. However, this writer found his extreme treble tone, like the brilliant high end of a wah wah pedal, used to excess. Still, Cote's technical and musical chops are dazzling. Eric St. Jean's juxtaposes weird Magmoid harmonies with occasional Keith Emerson style (faux) Hammond organ, replete with angular melodies and stabbing, staccato chords. Martin Maheux's brilliant fusion style drumming can be compared to Paga's Claude Salmieri. This is one hot band. — **Dean Suzuki**



Critique de Spaced Out – Slow Gin

Magazine : Progression
Issue : # 44
Country : USA
Year : 2003

SPACED OUT: *Slow Gin*

2003 (CD, 50:33); Unicorn UNCR 5006

Style: Space fusion

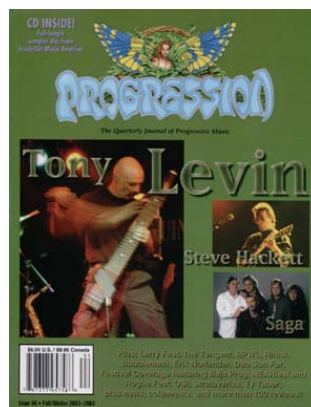
Sound: ★★★ Composition: ★★★ Musicianship: ★★★★★

Performance: ★★★★★ Total rating: 14

With this Canadian band's third album, I can only add to the praise heaped on them in these pages by Dean Suzuki for their last disc, *Eponymous II*. Jaco Pastorius and Jannick Top may come to mind when listening to leader Antoine Fafard's nimble, aggressive bass playing, but the dark tunnels excavated by groups like Djam Karet, Present, and Univers Zero also register as touchstones for this band's style.

However, *Spaced Out* imposes its own, distinct slant on the fusion genre. "Blue Ron Pipe A.M.," with Ronald Stewart and Eric St-Jean guesting on tenor saxophone and piano, respectively, is like Weather Report in hell (a good thing). Mark Tremblay's menacing guitar riff on the title track summons the hurtling velocity of Golden Earring's "Radar Love" in an instrumental context. "The Thing" has some restful keyboard amid cool stereo panning and effects, while "Spaced In" sets Tremblay's alternately crunching and soaring guitar against sequenced keyboards and voice patches.

A chamber-like intimacy in the writing combines with a thoroughly stoked fusion attack. An exciting release. — **Larry Nai**



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