

**IDIOT for March 2012
MARMONIC EARTH**

Q.1 What is your real name (optional) or the name you would like to be called?

My real name is Matthew, or Matt. I'll answer to either.

Q.2 What is your age group? 20 - 30. 30 - 40. 40 - 50. 50 - 60. Over 60.

40-50, getting real close to being 50-60.

Q.3 How did you get started in music?

I remember when I was 5 or 6, I used to make up songs on an old organ we had. I think it was mostly a decoration, but it did work, and I could spend all day playing around with it. Then, when I was 11, I talked my parents into letting me learn trumpet in the school band. I did that for a few years, and became good friends with a drummer that was also in the school band. Then of course by age 13, impressing the girls became an obsession, so we decided we would form a rock band. We knew of a few guitar players, the drummer friend had gotten a drum set for Christmas, and so all we needed was a bass player...so in the closet went the trumpet, and I bought an old, second hand bass from a local music store. I still have that bass, and just refurbished it as a fret-less. Anyway, through high-school we had a pretty good band. We played parties, and even organized a Thanksgiving bash at the local VFW. Somehow, only being 17 years old, we managed to buy 10 kegs of beer, sold tickets to our high-school friends, and had one heck of a party. I can't believe no-one got arrested or killed..LOL. We made a whopping \$600.00 USD and split it 5 ways. We eventually went our own ways to university and life, so the band broke up.

Q.4 It would seem that you played live with a band then on just one occasion. Is this correct? And, if so, have you any wish to play live on stage again either with a band or solo? Would you consider going professional?

The band I was in stayed together for about one year. We played on average one gig every other weekend, so we did a fair amount of playing out. Mostly private parties and some community centres. We got some amount of pay most gigs, some just enough to cover expenses, some times a little more. Not bad for under 18 year olds. But since then I haven't played out live. Yes, I would like to play live again. I've come close in the past couple of years, only to see the chance fade away for whatever reason. It is hard with the style of music I play, and being the only one in the band, to come up with something entertaining to play. I guess I could record backing tracks and play them while I played along, or just play solo, traditional, Native American flute. Looks like I will need to come up with something though, since I am getting offers to play at some local taverns for the summer, and I think I'd like to do that since that is probably the best way of getting any real fans and exposure.

Thanks for that Matthew, please carry on with how you started in music

At that same time I was working at a sports and entertainment facility with a crew that set up for all the different shows. Got to meet some really interesting people (artist) and learned some great road tech stuff from the engineers. Ahh, the stories I could tell.

Gotta stop you again. Whenever I hear anyone say something like "Ahh! The stories I could tell", I always want to hear. You say you met some interesting artists, can you do some name drops or tell us anything about these artists?

Ha Ha, well, I think the most interesting tale is of the time I partied with the rock band Van Halen. I was on the Arena's set up crew, which meant we would get things ready for whatever event that was coming to the facility. When a music group came, we would spend the night before they came, setting up the scaffolding and stage. The day of the concert, we would be responsible for getting the backstage area set up per the bands request, stocking the "refreshments", and ice, food, and that sort of stuff. In 1984, Van Halen came to town, and we needed to get the backstage area all set up with furniture, plants, and paintings on the wall. Basically, the backstage area looked like a really nice apartment or lounge. We didn't see any band members until that night, just before they went on stage. During the concert, we were pretty much free to do what we wanted, so of course we stayed around and watched the show. After the concert and after the audience and the band members are gone, we usually start to clean up the backstage area. But on this night, the band didn't leave. The members of Van Halen were having a little party, and it was my job to keep the refreshments stocked. We were told to keep our mouths shut, and our heads down, and just do our jobs. Kinda hard to do when you're a 19 year old kid surrounded by rock stars!! Anyway, at one point I was emptying some ice into a chest of beer, when David Lee Roth (singer) turned to me and asked me if I had any "papers". I was stunned, and it took me a few seconds to realize that he meant cigarette rolling papers. As it turned out, I did have a pack of rolling papers, though I didn't think he wanted them for tobacco. It was clear to me he wanted them for some medicinal herb. (I could tell this because of the baggie that he held in his hand). So I complied, and gave him a rolling paper. It was my last one, and being a smart @ss kid, I let him know he was taking my last paper, and that I now would not have one for when I got off work. David Lee Roth told me I didn't need to wait

until I got off work and proceeded to light up some of his herb and handed it to me. So there I was, smoking a hooter with David Lee Roth, Eddie and Alex Van Halen, and Michael Anthony..the boys of Van Halen. Needless to say, I didn't get much else done that night, and I'm just grateful that my boss didn't miss me or catch me. I did end up with David Lee Roth autographing the rolling paper package, and I still have it somewhere around here.

I also helped carry a stoned Eddie Money out to his limo. Then there's the time when Hank Williams Jr. was so hammered by the end of his show that they had an impersonator, that was part of his crew, come out and finish the last three songs. The crowd was so drunk, they didn't even notice..

And one last comment..I never knew until I worked there how lonely female ice dancers and rodeo queens are. That job was an absolute heavenly job for a non-married young man..LOL.

Thanks Mathew, I hope we are able to skip any libel suit ha ha. Carry on please with your musical heritage.

Then I got married, got a real job in construction and architecture, and started home recording off and on with reel to reel tape. We built a house from scratch, which I then built a nice little recording studio in the basement. About the time I had it all finished, we sold the house, bought a farm, and started getting involved with horses. Music kind of got dropped from my life for a few years until I picked up the Native American Flute. That led to wanting to record again, so I found Kristal DAW and the KAE forum, and well, here I am...

Q.5 Can you list your top 3 music genres?

Well it started with progressive rock/metal (at least that is what we called it then) then moved to new age and jazz fusion, and now I'm into the world music stuff, though, I never have quit listening to the other genres.

Q.6 Of the three, which do you associate with mostly?

Probably world music, because it can be a mix of all those other genres. I would like to say though, that I really enjoy almost all forms of music. I can usually find something I like out of any style. I do listen to a fair amount of classical also. I really like the German composers such as Mozart, Haydn, Handel, and even though he is not German, Dvorak.

Q.7 What is your talent? Don't be modest.

Hmmm..musical or other? Musically, I think I'm a pretty good composer. I've always been attracted to the tech stuff of music, so as I learn more about the DAW stuff, I think I am getting better with the mixing and engineering. Other..I think I'm pretty good with working and training the horses. I am as stubborn as a mule, so I can out wait any horse that wants to challenge me. I don't get frustrated, and patience is important with working with horses.(steel toed boots are important too!!)

Q.8 Of the talents you have not listed, which would you like to do most?

I would like to have a voice like Dino or Combobob. OK, now I'm in trouble..HaHa Not that I don't think any of the other singers on the forum are less talented, it's just their (Dino and Combobob) style of singing matches what I think I'd like to produce from my own vocal chords...

Q.9 What about professional recording? Do you ever think you have what it takes to set up on your own and earn money doing what you love?

That would be great! But I don't see it being a money maker, in that I don't think I could pay the bills. With all of the outstanding DAW software out there, it's just too easy for the indie artist to do it themselves, and there would be no way that I could get the equipment and experience to compete with the bigger studios. I'm fine recording my stuff and occasionally maybe recording a local musician or group. The pressure of doing it as a job and for an income just might take the fun out of it.

Q.10 Your musical leanings seem to be along the lines of 'trance' (I use the term loosely) as two more of our members, Jim 50 and Karmanistic. Ever considered doing a couple of tracks with them? I think you three could come up with something exciting.

I'm working on a collab with Jim50 right now, and I've always thought doing something with Karmanistic would be cool. Time, it's always about time, isn't it? Doesn't seem to be enough of it. That thought will give us something to look forward to then..LOL.

Q.11 From the list of members you know, who interests you most and why? (doesn't have to be because you think they own the best talent)

That's a tough one. They are all talented beyond belief, and I am humbled to be included into this group. But I guess if I have to pick someone it would be Agradaleous, because he always seems to surprise me with his knowledge about subjects that you wouldn't think he'd be interested in. On the surface, he seems like a jester, but I think he's probably a pretty deep soul. And, my god man, he can sure play a

mean guitar.LOL

Q.12 Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.

Yes, with Agradaleous, GC, and Fordy on Ag's song "Rain". Seems like I did another one with Agradaleous also, but I'm not sure we finished it. I am currently working on something with Jim50.

Q.13 Which of your colabs did you enjoy most and why?

Well since I only did the one with Agradaleous that is finished, I'd have to go with "Rain". I'm just sorry that I didn't do a better job of mixing it. It's amazing how much really good musicians can make my weak effort sound so good..HaHa

Q.14 Have you a favourite mix from our bandroom? (Could be one of your own.)

I really like Jim50's Sonic Travelpod stuff. The music is hypnotic, but intricate enough to keep the listener interested. Plus Jim50's engineering skills are to be envied. Smurf's music is polished also. I really have learned so much from them. I would also like to say that I am very grateful and appreciative of how giving those two are. Any question or inquiry, and they answer in spades. There is absolutely no bull sh@t to them. I also enjoy Karmanistics ventures into the cosmic unknown. The spirit of Zappa and the Mothers of Invention is alive and well in Flint, Michigan.

Q.15 What is your ambition both musically and personally?

My ambition musically is to keep growing and producing music that I am proud of. I think I'm my own worst critic, so if I can write something that I can listen to, then I've done good. If some one else likes it too, I'm even happier. I have always been happiest when I am creating something, I even start to get moody when I don't have the time to write some music or record.

Personally, I strive to make people happy, to lighten the "vibe" in the room. I absolutely could not be called a pollyanna, though. I have my moods (meaning I can be an a\$\$hole), but my name, Matthew, in ancient hebrew means "peacemaker", and being a Libra, I'm always looking for balance. So, I like to think that comes out in my music and in my conversations. I don't always succeed..LOL, but my ambition is to make this world, this life, and this moment as positive as I can.

Q 16 Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?

I used to belong to the Kristal users forum, but I haven't been there since all of the spam invaded. I've looked at other sites, Native American flute forums, New Age music forums, but none of them have the warm welcome as TTM has. I really like the people here, and the respect everyone has for each other. I am not much of an extrovert, so one forum that fits right is about all I can handle..HaHa

Q.17 Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?

It would be great if it grew, and attracted some new musicians, but I'm not sure how to do that. I try to add the TTM link to all the things that I do, be it videos on youtube, music posts on facebook, or whatever. maybe it might attract some others.

Q.18 Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?

Mungbean9 if he wants to, or Rkennet would be interesting.

My thanks to you Mathew for a very pleasant interview. You have made my job easy.