

transjoik

Transjoik creates music that is exciting, vital, and powerful! Song, throat joking, rap or recitation? Transjoik consists of four musicians who use the human voice in a way you've never heard before. Derived from old joik recordings on wax cylinders, the group's music establishes a mood that is at once modern and timeless and suggestive.

The vocal phrasing is reinforced by two drum sets, synth, electronic loops, and bass guitar. If one must speak in terms of musical categories, electronic, ambient, and trance are possible points of comparison. Of course, the term "world music" may also be used. Whatever the genre, Transjoik has taken it a step beyond.

In recent years, Transjoik has inspired a number of colleagues in the music business worldwide. One result of this is the "Remix Project," in which performers and producers such as Transglobal Underground, Aki Nawaz/FunDaMental, and DJ Mutamassik (Egypt/New York) have made remixes of the group's music. Transjoik has now integrated these remixes into its concerts – where its audiences can often be found at the foot of the stage, dancing ecstatically.

In the autumn of 2003, Transjoik's victory in the European final of the Liet International sparked media attention and audience interest across the continent. Held in the Netherlands, the competition featured representatives of 12 European minority cultures. The song that Transjoik won with, "Mijjajaa," is among the tracks on the group's newest CD "Uja Nami", which was released in the autumn of 2004. You can listen to it from Transjoik's content-rich website, www.transjoik.com.

Over the last few years, Transjoik has released 4 critically acclaimed CDs, has toured in Scandinavia, Europe, the United States, and Canada, and has established itself as one of the most exciting ventures at the international crossroads where authentic folk music meets fresh, new urban sounds.

Transjoik are:

Frode Fjellheim, synth/vocals
Nils-Olav Johansen, bass guitar/vocals
Tor Haugerud, percussion/vocals
Snorre Bjerck, percussion/vocals

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More info, photos, sound clips, video available at:

www.transjoik.com

What the press has said about the concerts:

OK, it's simply a matter of breaking out the clichés: It was hypnotic, compelling and exciting. Transjoik produced a rhythmic feast that gave off sparks. They closed the first day of the Trondheim Chamber Music Festival with a tremendous rhythmic force. With an elegant use of sampling loops and electronic wizardry, and with an awesome rhythmic drive, the band has suddenly become a power house in musical innovation.

(Trygve Lundemo, Adresseavisen, Trondheim)

Transjoik provide ecstatic music that breaks all barriers. The music gave associations of an erotic love-act between ancient Neanderthals. Not that anyone living has experienced such a spectacle, but if they had it would have sounded like Transjoik. The rhythm created magic in the auditorium. A resonating troll-drum created a vibrant atmosphere. It was entertainment for all the senses, not least for the intuitive half of the brain. A gang of shrieking and humming gorillas on the march, intermingled with thoughtful nuances reminiscent of chanting Tibetan monks.

(Bernt Carlsson Länstidningen)

Full of admiration over how so little can appear so heart-wrenching, while at the same time simply peaceful and beautiful. The founding member of the band, Frode Fjellheim, sits in the centre of the stage rhythmically rocking backwards and forwards. Like a pounding heart that pumps magic out into the room. Joiking is not only voices. The band proved that even drums can joik via a sensational South Sami drum joik. A clashing duel between the two percussionists, in which they challenged each other to a rhythmic battle.

(Erika Hallhagen ÖP)

«**Meavraa**» the vocal sound of the shaman calling for his helping spirits

What the press has written about Meavraa:

... the result is both dancey and freaky. *"TimeOut New York"*

This CD is among the most exiting CDs released this year. In addition it delivers a musical experience so fascinating and powerful it might tear your ears off.

(Dagsavisen November 19. 2000)

..the best electronic music produced in Norway this year..

(Adresseavisen October 24. 2000)

..the most modern and creative among Norwegian musicians working with folk music.

(Klassekampen October 25. 2000)

The shaman is an important character in the sami culture. Frode Fjellheim and Transjoik could easily be recognized as the new shamans. *(Puls November 2000)*

...giving the term yoik a new meaning! *(Dagsavisen November 19. 2000)*

.. raw and monumental. *(Klassekampen October 25. 2000)*

«**Mahkalahke**» to return to a place you once have lived in order to get something you've lost...

What the press has written about Mahkalahke:

This is truly one of the most unique CDs produced in the last couple of years, and believe it or not, it was released by a Scandinavian imprint of Warner Brothers. Imagine combining shaman tribal drumming techniques with polyphonic Tibetan Buddhist chants and then tossing some earthy ambient sounds into the mix. That's Transjoik's "Mahkalahke."

www.laze.net/bestmusic/ (This weeks pick feb. 1999)

"Mahkalahke" is an enthralling and evocative sound construction, consistently individualistic and aesthetic, and totally divorced of vagueness. Music that displays totally new facets each time you hear it. The CD should be sold at your local supermarket. That would have been really creative.

Reidar Sjøden "Lira " 4/97

Sami music can now boast more international exponents than simply Mari Boine.

Stein Østbø VG 16/10 97

"Mahkalahke" takes ethnic music a step further, but does it with such consistency that you can only applaud these mystical garage rock joikers .

Eva Clementi Dagens Nyheter 1/11 97

Transjoik have several things in common with Mari Boine, but they go even further in combining old and new and achieving hypnotic effects. The music can be darkly frightening and aggressive but also thoughtful and pensive. But you can also dance to much of the music. This CD, which defies traditional classification, contains some of the most interesting Norwegian music released this year.

Trygve Lundemo Adresseavisen 1/10 97

Third CD from Frode and definitely his best. Even more adventurous than his previous CD, this new one is a great leap forward in new joik fusions, featuring accompaniment: sax, keyboards, guitar, clarinets, percussion and several guest joikers. Appearing on the excellent Atrium label of Sweden. Highly recommended!
(*Digelius Nordic Gallery*)

The band members:

Frode Fjellheim plays synthesiser and uses his voice in a joik-inspired way. He formed the group in 1992, originally as the Frode Fjellheim JazzJoik Ensemble. Since then he has been the group's leader, co-producer of the CDs and has composed the most original compositions played by the band. Frode is a freelance musician and composer who lives in Trondheim, Norway. His Sami roots stem from Røros where his family still work as traditional reindeer herders.

Nils-Olav Johansen plays guitar and contributes the most unique and extreme vocal performances in Transjoik. Nils-Olav is a guitarist with a highly personal technique. The special way he uses his voice while playing the guitar, makes his style easily recognisable. Nils-Olav comes from Fosen near Trondheim, but has Finnish and (in all likelihood) Sami ancestors.

Snorre Bjerck is one of the band's percussionists and plays on a rather unusual drum kit. Snorre has collected instruments from around the world and plays them in his own inimitable fashion. He has also been known to sing/joik, inspired by Arabic and African folk music! When not travelling around the world searching for more drums, Snorre lives in Bergen.

Tor Haugerud compliments Snorre in an extremely forcible way. They have developed their double drumming technique over many years and are ready to make totally unique grooves. Tor plays on traditional drums, kitchen utensils and car wheel rims and makes a sound that you have never heard before. He has also been known to perform a ritual dance while reciting ancient Sami text. Tor comes from a small village in West Norway but now lives in Trondheim.