



KONGORIKISHI.COM



SHINKONGO

音楽の限界を突破
PUSHING BOUNDARIES IN MUSIC
突破音楽的界限

In the post-apocalyptic wasteland of music, we can either fight for it to survive and evolve or let it perish...

The legend of music at the end of civilization. 20XX. The world was engulfed by nuclear flames. The oceans dried up. The Earth withered and tore. All music seemed dead. However, it survived...

Has only one unit on Earth capable of warping time and space using odd meters, polymetrics, time-displacement and metric modulation in music survived?

Can they find each other in the desolate wasteland and reunite, warping space and time to go back and make things right?

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

It took awhile and there have been many years of holding back to find the right people who could perform the music properly, as well as numerous further setbacks. However, after eventually taking the risk of setting up a small studio and some video shooting equipment, it was finally time to take action, before it's too late.

Since then, the debut album "Zero" has been recorded. It consists of 12 songs. 10 original and 2 rearranged covers important to the story and context of the album. Additionally, an accompanying EP has been recorded, consisting mainly of cover songs (5 covers, 1 original) that have also been rearranged in Kongo style. Because this concept is new to the world (although not to us as it has been in the works for a long, long time), the accompanying covers EP is intended to gather some audience using material people might be familiar with, so that the original material, when released, does not go to waste as too much has gone into it for it not to launch running.

The idea is to produce albums regularly, along with a music video for each song, since in current times it is necessary to have a wealth of content available to promote. These music videos will all share some connection to a greater universe and overarching story (featuring themes including a nuclear apocalypse, time-travel, alternate dimensions, alien bio-technology and human psychology). They will also be connected by story videos. All of this is intended to be accompanied by touring, since the live set will be the most important part. In fact, the whole point of the concept is to facilitate a situation where this band concept can realistically tour, as it requires a certain level of scale to be plausible, due to the nature of the music and partly due to the fact that it cannot be done without musicians based in different locations.

WHAT IS KONGO?

The Kongo band concept was originally intended to be Hong Kong's first world-class fusion band, but has since become international now that the line-up consists of world-class players Chris Brien (drums & percussion) and Jon von Boehm (bass), who after many years of searching and performing, ended up being the only two people Kongo (guitar & vocals) could recruit that would do the music justice, with the ability to perform it as it should be.

A power-trio consisting of three musicians, all pushing the limits of their craft and passionate about making music to the highest possible standard, Kongo is a one of a kind band, carefully designed to push the boundaries of music and reshape perceptions of what is possible and acceptable in music, not just in Hong Kong or Asia, but worldwide. Most music stays within very limited boundaries. We hope to gradually help more people understand it's endless possibilities.

WHAT DOES THE MUSIC REPRESENT?

While it cannot be placed squarely into a category, Kongo's music could be considered "fusion" and combines elements of rock, blues, jazz, funk and more with Afro-Cuban / Latin and African rhythms. In reality though, it is more akin to a dissolution of boundaries. The music combines raw feel and energy with technical prowess, incorporating odd time signatures, along with in future, occasional polymeters, metric modulation, time-displacement and other such methods of space-time manipulation, whilst packaging them in a way that can be accessible to mainstream audiences. This can offer a good experience to both general audiences and those that are knowledgeable about music.

With a mission to put serious music and musicianship into the mainstream, the songs are infectious and memorable, yet demonstrate high levels of skill and are designed to gradually expose mainstream audiences to progressively more advanced and varied forms of music, arranged in a way they can appreciate and digest.

WHAT DOES KONGO MEAN?

Kongo Rikishi are two wrathful and muscular guardian deities standing at the entrance of temple gates. They represent duality, dichotomy, the beginning and the end. The birth and death of all things. The birth and death of the universe. All encompassing, without limitation.

HOW IS THE MUSIC PRESENTED?

RECORDED: Packaged in a commercially digestible format, without compromising the musicianship.

LIVE: Performances are extended, with improvised solos and virtuoso performances, highlighting all members and pushing the boundaries of music.

VIDEO: Music will be released with accompanying videos that are part of a greater, interconnected universe and overarching story.

WHO ARE THE CURRENT MEMBERS?

Wandering the post-apocalyptic wasteland, Kongo knew his only hope to re-ignite the flame of music would be to find the two individuals that could successfully warp space and time in order to correct the course of history...

Chris Brien, who is known as "The Octobeast", due to his unique ability to use multi-limb independence like nobody else in order to manipulate time and space at will. Other bands have a whole percussion section. We have an Octobeast.

Jon Von Boehm, known as "Funky Dunkleosteus" whose bass skills are second to none is a pioneer of extreme technique, but used appropriately depending on the musical context. See more about each musician on subsequent pages!