

Cicada Omega, www.cicadaomega.com, myspace.com/cicadaomega

Cicada Omega is a southern original. The music is a continuation of blues, country, gospel, R&B and rock traditions. It is an other-worldly blend of pounding rhythm, southern evangelism and electrified junk. With two drummers, a home-made upright bass, and electric guitar, mixed with the chants, screams, and preaching of a snake-handling front man, their music takes traditional music, puts it in a blender, and turns it up to the breaking point. They have been described as "southern goth" or "gospel punk," but they defy categories by reinventing musical traditions rather than simply following them.

As strange as it all may sound, it comes from the most honest of places. It is the music of four Kentuckians who have a 15 year history. People have come and gone, band names have changed, and the music has evolved. But the root is still the same. They write songs that get you moving while telling you stories about lost souls, indians, aliens, sex, the Devil, and the mysterious, strange south. It is juke-joint music deeply rooted in blues and gospel, but also takes off into other realms. If asked for influences you would find not only John Lee Hooker, the Staples Singers, and Dr. John, but also Black Sabbath, Prince, and Hank Williams.

The group is fronted by preacher-guitarist sooth-sayer and harmonica man Reverend B.D. Winfield. With a wide vocal range and sometimes rage in his tone, he acts as a catalyst much like an auctioneer selling soul.

The drums are split and doubled. Dave Rue plays a traditional kit that keeps everything in line. And Salim Sundiata Sanchez mixes it up with latin percussion and found objects. The two combine to work like a voodoo machine producing hypnotic rhythms with endless energy and style.

The bass is played by Daniyel Hicks. Well, that is, if you can call it a "bass." He plays an electrified oil drum upright bass. (You just have to see it to believe it.) He likes loud, dirty low tones that carry a solid rhythm in between everything.

The vocals are split between Sanchez, Hicks, and Winfield, with the Reverend taking lead. It often comes down to call and response type vocals with stomping and yelling, each member displaying his own style.

The name comes from the insect cicada. The cicada is a loud, flying insect that lives in the south. It is a cousin to the locust mentioned in Revelations. Cicada Omega stands for that last plague. They're sort of the unruly ones bringing up the rear.

As a whole, the group gives a refreshing sound to the music of the deep south. And when you see them live, you take away an experience like you've never had, and that you'll never forget. So come prepared to shake, holler, laugh and be intoxicated, for they, "are Cicada Omega and they bring new age, old age, space age transcendental junkyard blues from the dark and bloody ground of Kentucky."

Cicada Omega is currently located in Portland, Oregon and plays mostly on the west coast. They have shared the stage with local and national acts such as Hillstomp, Th' Legendary Shack Shakers, Rollie Tussing, Slim Cesna's Auto Club, Oh' Death, Drunken Prayer, and Scott H. Biram.

They are currently working on a full length album, due in summer of 2007.

Members:

Barry Winfield, vocals, guitar, harmonica, banjo, snakes

Barry Winfield was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, raised in a trailer park across the street from Western State Mental Hospital where he was attacked by an ape. He believes that these early events continue to have a profound effect. He has always been around music, whether it was his grandfather playing banjo and fiddle, or the hymns he was surrounded by in church. He began playing when he was nine years old, his voice his first instrument. Later when he was older, he picked up harmonica, banjo, and guitar, which he now plays in Cicada Omega. He first met Daniyel and Salim years ago in Kentucky when they were wild and untamable. They formed the Big Spider Tribe, and taught themselves the art of "making it if they didn't have it." That is a theme that is still with them today. He created the bass that Daniyel plays today.

Barry has travelled far and wide, (New York, Texas, Massachusetts, and Oregon.) and played with many, (Land Between the Lakes, The Big Spider Tribe, John Fayhe, Chillbone, and The Big Wah Scratch Band.) But none has held his heart and soul like Cicada Omega. "I believe in making music that is moved by a spirit. I hope you find that spirit within yourself, and let it move you as well."

Salim Sanchez, percussionist, vocals

With a name like this, you can expect a lot of diversity and rhythm from this afro-cubano. Since the early 90's he has been involved in various forms of performance art, dance and experimental theatre. It wasn't until 1994 when he met up with Barry Winfield and Daniyel Hicks in the tongue-twanged town of Murray, Kentucky, and worked in projects such as Bumble and The Big Spider Tribe. From that moment on, he has been crafting and adding his flavor of voodoo trance, and tribal beats to anything he does. When/if you get a chance to see him live, be prepared. His energy is contagious and his vocal stylings potent. He is a true percussionist that will play anything, period. (Coffee cans, paint buckets, trash can lids, congas, cabasa, and a traditional cocktail set, to name very few.) This eclectic rhythmic spark supercharges Cicada Omega. Salim is very proud to be a part of this musical evolution/revolution, and it shows.

Daniyel Hicks, bass player vocals, sometimes other stuff

Daniyel grew up in north, central, and southwestern Kentucky. In the fine tradition of the South East, Daniyel learned guitar from his family and cut his chops with many different folks, and importantly on whatever instrument was available. This led to an

eclectic style and many influences, instrumentally as well as stylistically.

Daniyel met Barry Winfield and Salim Sanchez in 1994 and they played together in the Big Spider Tribe, an experimental tantra-roots band with no bassist. In that project, Daniyel developed a style that contains aspects of both lead/rythym guitar and bass. Over time and a move to Oregon, he finally migrated all the way to playing (mostly) bass for Cicada Omega on a glorified washtub bass made from 50 gallon drum. (He has never owned a "normal" bass.) His early guitar education inserts melody, but it's rhythm that drives his style. Good for him, and the rest of the band, as they are all certainly driven by the same force.

David Rue, drummer

David Rue hails from Louisville, Kentucky where he started drumming at the age of 13. David taught himself to play drum by listening to his favorite records by groups like the Rolling Stones, The Who, and the Stooges. At 16, he started the band No Birds with his friend Ward Deters. Dave went on to play in both punk and roots based during highschool and college.

In 1991 Dave moved to Portland, Oregon to study art. Since then, he has played in many different Portland bands including Vitamin M and Kentucky Snake Handlers. Around 2000 he met Barry and Daniyel and started playing drums with Land Between the Lakes. When that group dissolved, he joined Barry, Daniyel, and Salim and forme Cicada Omega.

Cicada Omega contact info:
cicadaomega.com
myspace.com/cicadaomega
events@cicadaomega.com

snail mail to:
Rev. B.D. Winfield
3622 SE 63rd Ave
Portland, Oregon
97206
ph: 503-233-0809