

Bing

Music



Negura Bunget: Better Than Their Name

Romanian black metal band travels a path of mystery

Posted by [pdfreeman](#) on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 6:07 AM

Almost no new music was released yesterday. One thing did catch my attention, though—a new 7" from **Negura Bunget**. If you're not familiar with them, don't worry, you're in the majority. They're a cult band at best, progressive/folky black metallers from Romania who sing in their native language and adopt other alienating strategies—like breaking up. Apparently, back in 2009, original vocalist **Huppogrammos Disciple's** and guitarist **Sol Faur** had a fight with drummer **Negru**, and the band split, supposedly by mutual decision. But to the surprise of absolutely no one who knows anything about the typical musician's mindset, Negru decided to reform the band with a whole new lineup.

That lineup's been pretty productive, too, releasing two albums (and the aforementioned single) so far in 2010. The first release of the year, *Măiestrit*, was actually a re-interpretation of the group's 2000 album *Măiastru Sfetic*. The second one, *Virstele Pământului*, was a limited edition (666 copies, scary!) that according to the [Encyclopaedia Metallum](#), came in a "handmade woodbox, roped and filled with the very earth of the place it comes from." Awesome; thanks for the box of dirt, Romanians!



Seriously, though, while *Măiestrit* is decent black metal with a few stylistic flourishes along the way, *Virstele Pământului* is flat-out awesome. It begins with several minutes of droning keyboard, atmospheric vocals, percussion and flute, the whole thing reminding me of **Popol Vuh's** soundtracks to the **Werner Herzog** movies *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* and *Nosferatu*. When the second track kicks in, the high, treble guitars almost sound like a female voice behind leonine primary vocalist **Corb**, as the drums gallop like a thousand horses trying to stampede you off a cliff. On other tracks, the band brings in acoustic instruments, even more powerful drones and small hand-held percussion devices that sound like clicking bones, and generally work hard (and successfully) at creating a horror-film vibe that's not cheesy, but genuinely unsettling.

There's something deeply foreign about Negura Bunget's approach, as though their music is rooted in a cultural context that Americans will simply never get (and note I'm not calling Americans shallow—there's a lot about our culture that nobody who's not from here can ever truly understand). One of the best things about the Internet is its ability to expose you to something totally alien, while giving it a feeling of accessibility because it only cost you a Google search and a mouse click to find. So while you can find Negura Bunget's music easily enough if you want to, getting to the heart of it, achieving true understanding of what they're about, might take years. I'm gonna give it a shot myself, and I suggest you do the same.

< [Back to Headbang - MSN Music's Heavy Metal Blog](#)

[Print](#) [Email](#) [Digg](#) [Facebook](#)

Join the discussion!

Be the first to add a comment. To add a comment, please [sign in](#)

advertisement

Music News

- [Hudson excited about showcasing slim figure](#)
- [Jackson's mother sues concert promoter AEG Live](#)
- [Jackson doc seeks dismissal of wrongful death case](#)
- [Norah Jones releasing star-studded duets compilation](#)
- [Katy Perry stages surprise set at old high school](#)
- [Marley family loses copyright battle](#)
- [George Michael gets 8 weeks jail for drug driving](#)
- [Tribute concert planned for Lennon's 70th birthday](#)
- [Kid Rock appears in Ga. court over lawsuit](#)
- [Spike Lee to direct John Legend, Roots live webcast](#)

Hot Gossip

- [Hush-hush reunion for Lindsay and Sam?](#)
- [Backstage rendezvous for Jen and John](#)
- [Miley and Liam back on?](#)

Top Videos

- ['I Like It' by Enrique Iglesias](#)
- ['Fresh Blood' by Eels](#)
- [Robert Plant's 'Angel Dance'](#)
- ['Love The Way You Lie' by Eminem](#)
- [Cosgrove: I love NY](#)

- 'Angel Dance' by Robert Plant
- 'Your Love' by Nicki Minaj
- 'Outta Your Mind' by Lil Jon
- 'Drop The World' by Lil Wayne
- 'Tighten Up' by The Black Keys

[MSN privacy](#) [Legal](#) [Advertise on MSN](#)

© 2010 Microsoft |