

This newest release from the group is much more a dark progressive release than it is related to chamber music. The dark territories of Kopecky's inspirations, sometimes experimental, are noticeable influences, as well as Dan Maske's melodic progressive keyboards improvisations, with some dark sounds here and there as well. Angela Smith's cello is less noticeable, also because mostly it is more than once fuzz distorted, adding dark sounds to the compositions, sometimes in the form of dark electricity to the dark matter.

Even when one hears just now and then references to other compositions (a small piece of Mozart even !), most of them are swallowed into the dark by a black hole, while around that centre, the compositional movements are for a huge part still being lead by a post-Bartok Rock In Opposition inspiration, living symbiotically with its newly created gravitational tensions.

The small jazzy piano improvisation on "Not from around here" gives a certain relief from gravity.

On the last piece, "Endangered" I realize mostly how much the group is dominated by bass and keyboards mostly, and how the drummer in fact could here have done a bit more than always just simply fit in. Because of its inner nature the album demands repeated listens before each detail presented is heard more clearly and its multi-faced life in its own logical system, instead of feeling imprisoned by it.

Audio : "Creature Council"

Info : [www.far-corner.com](http://www.far-corner.com) & audio : <http://www.myspace.com/farcornerband>

& with 3 audio tracks : <http://www.far-corner.com/discs/endangered.htm>

Label info : <http://www.cuneiformrecords.com/bandshtml/farcorner.html>

Other reviews : <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=25077> &

<http://www.waysidemusic.com/ProductInfo.aspx?productid=RUNE%20246>

<http://www.far-corner.com/discs/endangered-review.htm>

<http://www.scaruffi.com/vol7/farcorne.html#end>

German review : [http://www.babyblaue-seiten.de/album\\_7866.html](http://www.babyblaue-seiten.de/album_7866.html)

Another project from Kopecky is Yet Rain. Review on [next page->](#)



*Ralph Rec.*

**The Residents : Not Available (US, 1974)\*\*\*\*\***

The Residents were amongst those groups who were surely 20 years ahead their time. They predated all private tape-recording groups from the 80's with electronica experiments with strange spheres, vocals and harmonies. It took music history to even the end of the 90's or even much later before more groups like this came to the discipline of professional recorded material.

Residents are a kind of theatre or theatre into theatre into music. "Not Available" plays intellectually and conceptually with the idea of a personal play within a play, which becomes another play with the public and the idea that this shouldn't be available or exposed, but of course that's only a typical Residents game.

A teacher of mine once said Residents are kind of anti-music but I wouldn't put it that way. But they use the "not obvious" on the edge of absurdity in a very presentable way, with its own specific, typical and unique harmony patterns. This album is another essential Residents release !

Other favourites of mine are "The Third Reich 'n Roll" -LP version-(playing a musical game with oldies, making absurd versions of them as another unacceptable-art exhibition), "Mark of the Mole" -LP version- (another surreal rock-opera), and "Commercial Album" (with its according to Residents hits sensitive tracks of one minute, because the essence of a hit is only 1 minute).

Audio : <http://www.artistdirect.com/nad/store/artist/album/0,,153151,00.html>

Other review : <http://www.rzweb.net/albums/classic/notavail.html> &

<http://www.musicdish.com/maq/index.php3?id=2731>

& <http://www.tonevendor.com/item/18086>

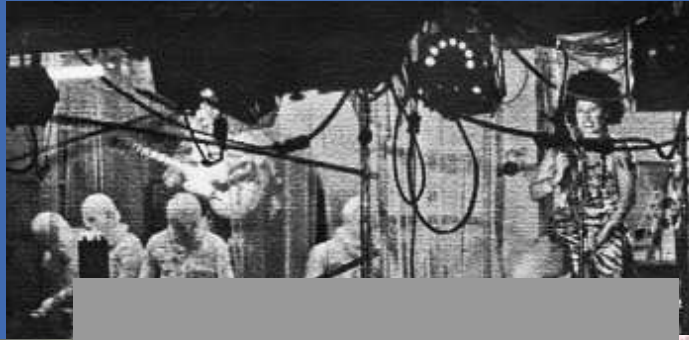
& [http://rateyourmusic.com/view\\_album\\_details/album\\_id\\_is\\_10584](http://rateyourmusic.com/view_album_details/album_id_is_10584)

More info on Residents : <http://www.residents.com/> & <http://www.ralphamerica.com/>

Label entry : <http://212.12.33.205/euroralph/kategorie.asp?KatID=CD>

PS. About the listing on this page : Residents are not chamber music related but they are related with theatre music, and especially so for this piece.

Next reissue of The Residents [here](#) and later Residents album review [here](#)



*The Cryptic Corp.*

**The Residents : *Fingerprince* (US, 1974-1976, re.2012)\*\*\*\***

This early album by The Residents took a while before it was restored in its completeness. It features recordings assembled after the first record and from before the "Third Reich'n Roll" album. The earliest part of it was written as a rhythmic element in the performance of "Number One", a conceptual piece for improvisational orchestra. These tracks sound a bit like loose ideas with rhythm drives and well worked out rhythms and have all the elements and qualities that make the sound of The Residents recognisable, like odd guitar harmonies, constructed and consequently prepared with almost off-key harmonies and weird vocal leads, as if this is a kind of puppeteer circus theatre with ventriloquist puppets taking over. Very much it is a different world, a bit dark and dense through its use of synthesisers, but a few listens later the focus is all very clear like on a stage scene, a prediction of where The Residents would evolve to live. Instead of having these additional parts to use in improvisation, they also expanded these thoughts with the idea to make them into a ballet form. It is especially in the large 18 minute track where you can hear what it leads to, this shows The Residents band's brilliance and vision,

a bit a shame it takes a while to get to that after many more strange disorientations of small songs, where I had no idea where I was or what the contexts were up to, the sounds of these tracks were in fact pretty accessible despite its shadowy clearance. Due to expensiveness, only a part of the originally intended album was released as a double LP, (as "Fingerprince (Tourniquet Of Roses)". The last part was separately released in 1979 as "Babyfingers". Here the complete score has been reissued.

Video : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZkWXs97LXU>

Review LP version : [http://www.tranglos.com/marek/yes/tr\\_117.html](http://www.tranglos.com/marek/yes/tr_117.html)

& <http://www.allmusic.com/album/fingerprince-tourniquet-of-roses-mw0000194012>

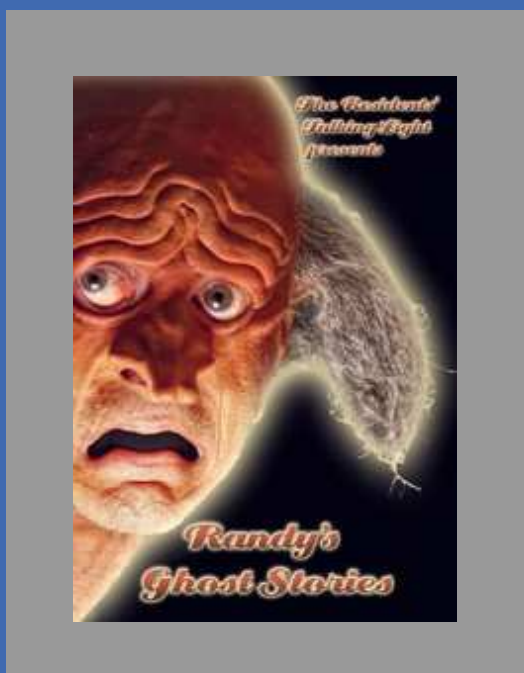
& <http://www.theresidents.co.uk/discography/more/fingerprince.html>

& <http://www.markprindle.com/residents.htm#fingerprince>

& <http://popdose.com/the-complete-idiots-guide-to-the-residents/>

Shop description : <http://www.dustygroove.com/item.php?id=sjptqjb696>

Label info : <http://mvdb2b.com/...> ; Next album review [next](#)



*Cryptic Corp.*      **The Residents : Randy's Ghost Stories** -dvd- (US,2011)\*\*\*

I was lucky to have seen The Residents live once, already some 15 years ago. The band had started with about 1 hour or more of bizarre video clips before the actual show started. A very good preparation for the actual show which was visually strong, with a lead singer wearing masks. I know the band developed further in their releases and presentations including at first early computer graphic art with it and later some video's that developed from there. With my impression from this new period came a great portion of caution. I found the images a bit primitive, the graphic movements forced and not natural enough. We are so many years further on now, so of course I am glad that I am able to check out the band's developments since then.

I have seen the DVD now, but only slightly afterwards I began to realise this isn't just about the video concept, it is an illustration of their live performances, like a diary, with a book of stories that are somewhat differently projected onto stage. Some of the ghost stories told on the animated movie concept come over with frightening dream-your-dream like effect, tickling the unconscious imagination. Still a few times the images move a bit too predictably to keep the attention into the full magic of the inspiration. Just a bit more of a more expensive multiple person movie production could have been a perfect finishing touch that therefore here and there still is missing. But the spoken word stories themselves convince, and some of the best images stick ever after. The music is less renewing compared to the earlier works, The Residents total concept however still is growing. I wonder again how this (experience) would be felt live.

Video on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhcYlwmXVOQ>

Info : <http://www.residents.com/historical/page82/page364/page364.html>

& <http://www.mydentonmusic.com/reviews.php?page=the-residents-2.5.10>