

Percy Howard Biography

Singer/Producer Percy Howard is the generator and impetus behind the Meridiem Project, which has included collaborations with Bill Laswell, Vernon Reid, Buckethead, Charles Hayward, Fred Frith, Jarboe, Happy Rhodes, Trey Gunn, Robert Rich, and Jill Tracy, amongst others. Three albums have been released under the Meridiem banner since 1998, “Meridiem”, “Incidental Seductions” (both on Materiali Sonori), and the recently released (October 2009) “A Pleasant Fiction” (Voiceprint/Pangea). Prior to the creation of Meridiem, Percy was the singer in the band Nûs, which released two recordings on Belgian Art label Sub Rosa in the mid 90’s, “All The Vertical Angels” and “Inside is the Only Way Out”, both produced by Bill Laswell. Percy has also contributed vocals to recordings by Jarboe, ambient pioneer Robert Rich, and producer Matt Donner.

A Psychotherapist and poet, Howard is an expressive, classically trained singer whose music is extremely romantic, and difficult to pinpoint in a specific genre, but which reflects elements of Jazz, classical, soul, and progressive rock. Percy’s vocal stylings have been compared to Nina Simone, David Sylvian, Scott Walker, Screaming Jay Hawkins, Arthur Brown and Paul Robeson, and the collaborative strangeness of some of his work is evocative of the similarly genre-defying work of Barry Adamson. Howard’s recordings have been a source of praise, befuddlement and curiosity in critical circles, and have steadily progressed from ambient, prog-type soundscapes with vocals to carefully constructed compositional work, such as a work in progress with Jazz/Classical composer Jack Perla, on their “Poet’s Cabaret” project, a pop/modern classical/Cabaret work which will be a foundation of Percy’s musical way forward in the future. Howard’s current release, “A Pleasant Fiction”, is the transition from a more out, progressive style to a more structured compositional style, being a synthesis of the two, all the while being faithful to the same muse, which puts forth literary reflections on love and spirituality as the central lyrical subject matter.