

# IMPRESSIONS OF...

## MAKAI by ALPHA\_ALPHA

ALPHA\_ALPHA is an experimental noise group from Philadelphia, PA. Makai was released in January of 2017.

You can enjoy it here:  
[alphax2.bandcamp.com/album/makai-2/](http://alphax2.bandcamp.com/album/makai-2/)

### Impressions:

Alpha\_Alpha makes use of the standard sounds of harsh noise, but recreates them into a personal construction. The grinding, ominous undertone is there, but over it you will get something new. On track one it is a great industrial beat nodding your head to the assembly line process. The other tracks vary- the second is more abstract. Some tear harder, some relax into an exotic groove. They've successfully merged dance with noise, and in so doing they've transcended the limits of both.

## NIGHTLIFE IS FOR YOU by OH OH ECSTASY

OH OH ECSTASY is an avant-rock group from New York City, NY. Nightlife is for you was released in January 2017.

You can listen here:  
[ohohectasy.bandcamp.com/album/nightlife-is-for-you](http://ohohectasy.bandcamp.com/album/nightlife-is-for-you)

### Impressions:

This work is a dark, strange take on multiple musical points-of-view. There is always a shadowy quality, and always an experimental approach. But song-to-song you might get psychedelic rock, you might get dance rock, you might get post-punk, you might get darkwave. Incidentally, those are all great genres. This is a moody, approachable work with a bit of a wink to it. I enjoyed it, you may too.

## TO INFINITY by NEVERNAUTS

NEVERNAUTS are a beach punk band from Hope Mills, NC. To infinity was released June 2017.

Check em out here:  
[nevernauts.bandcamp.com/album/to-infinity](http://nevernauts.bandcamp.com/album/to-infinity)

### Impressions:

This album is an EP that features all of their most popular tunes. Calling all destroyers has always been a great tune, from the first time I heard it at Port Shitty Antifest '16 up until now. The album version is still good, and as infectious as usual. The vocals are well delivered. The Nevernauts sound like a blend of west coast pop punk bands. A growly, catchy vocal lays over a simple but catchy riff. A party atmosphere flows on. To Infinity captures their sound well, but if you really want to have a great time check them out live.

## DREDGER by OUTER HEAVEN

OUTER HEAVEN is an experimental project from Richmond, VA. Dredger was released in December 2017.

Check it out here:  
[moreaueast.bandcamp.com/album/dredger](http://moreaueast.bandcamp.com/album/dredger)

### Impressions:

Ethereal, haunting, poignant and strange. This could be the soundtrack to a deep sea dive, or an empty space carrier. Hums, robotic communications, ambient drones, and more build up the basis of this work. An ambient quality both builds nervous tension and feels deeply comforting. Like being in the womb, all the noises are just beyond the consciousness. Somewhere out there it is beautiful, but in here it is tense and abstract.

## MEMORY GARDENS by STEPHEN CARROLL PALKE

STEPHEN CARROLL PALKE is an experimental group from Jeffersonton, VA. Memory Gardens was released in June 2016.

Here it is:  
[starofthesearecordings.bandcamp.com/](http://starofthesearecordings.bandcamp.com/)

### Impressions:

A shimmering, minimalist soundscape expands vividly before me. Each piece is its own small world. A mood is created by the choice of instruments, and even the production. The album has a dreamy, surreal quality. It is almost magical sounding. The notes are used in unconventional ways, but are extremely listenable. The music could be in a Japanese art house film. I really enjoy this. I would call it high art. Eminently listenable, but also interesting. Lovely.

## WATERED DOWN DEMON FUZZ by DARKO THE SUPER

DARKO THE SUPER is an avant-dance/hop group from Philadelphia, PA. Watered Down Demon Fuzz was released August 2017.

Check it out here:  
[udontdeservethisbeautifulart.bandcamp.com/.../watered...](http://udontdeservethisbeautifulart.bandcamp.com/.../watered...)

### Impressions:

This is a truly bizarre album. It is all over the place. It tends to stick in a "hiphop" motif. If hiphop was the sun, all the planets rotating around it would be crazy, some with elliptical orbits, some just collections of weird spirits. I've never heard anything that is so obviously rap and yet that does nothing at all to give you an idea of what it is. I love how puzzling and acid-drenched this work is. The progressions are stream of consciousness. The production is great. Zappa meets Dr. Octagon meets tape splicing? Whatever, just listen to it.

## 14:43 by HONEYMOON

HONEYMOON is a slow-core group from Norwalk, Ohio. 14:43 was released in August, 2017.

You can listen:  
[honeymoonohio.bandcamp.com/releases](http://honeymoonohio.bandcamp.com/releases)

### Impressions:

Hmm. This manages to bridge the gap between Progressive rock and shoegaze. Not in a frenetic way. The relationships of the vocals to the chords are pretty unique. I've never heard a group sound \*quite\* like this, but the individualism is subtle. The songs are persistent. The vocals are relatable and catchy, without pandering. The band definitely draws from multiple streams. I can respect this approach.

## THIS ISLAND EARTH by WHITE KNIGHT

WHITE KNIGHT is a psych rock group from Louisville, KY. This Island Earth was released in June 2017.

Freak out here:  
[whiteknight.bandcamp.com/album/this-island-earth](http://whiteknight.bandcamp.com/album/this-island-earth)

### Impressions:

This is great. Immediately I'm awash in a psychedelic matrix of noise, pedal effects and Bowie-like delivery. It has the best of the 70s, blended with the most avant-garde noise music you could find today. The grooves are steady. The motifs are consistent. The songs are well written. Great stuff.



COMMODITY  
**FETISH**  
 RECORDS