

Sounds from the underworld

# Ethodius

NICOLE AKOPIAN

**E**thodius, otherwise known offstage as Matt Sarns, is an eclectic, interesting, experimenting performer. The name "Ethodius" comes from two Scottish kings- Ethodius I, the 25th king who ruled from 159 to 192 A.D., and Ethodius II, the 28th king who ruled from 217 to 238 A.D.

His music delves into more than one genre, more notably classical piano, and other times, more industrial stylings. It's actually rather difficult to completely accurately define just what it is Ethodius does, as he is free of the constraints brought on by labels. "I would describe my sound as being dark, ethereal, and ambient. There are some tracks I have recorded that contain sounds that I have edited to a great degree. As a result, there are times when the sound is difficult to describe. However, some people have described such tracks as sounding "otherworldly," he says.

Ethodius initially got involved in playing music by picking up the piano. "I was playing the piano a long time before I got into electronic music," he says. "I liked the idea of how someone could play more than one melody at a time on the piano," he adds. A trip to an island in the 1980s yielded him the opportunity to get his hands on a piano. "My very first experience with the piano was at my cousins' cottage at Harsens Island. My cousin Debbie

taught me a few things while I was over there." In 1984 he became involved in playing classical piano with David Butzu. His most recent instruction on the piano was with Dr. Garik Pederson at Eastern Michigan University.

As time progressed, he expanded his musical experimentation into other realms. "As far as electronics are concerned, I liked the idea of how I could edit sounds to my liking," he says. "I also liked the idea of Sampling which became less expensive with the Ensoniq EPS 16+. This was back in 1991 and I purchased one of these units then at the music store Music Box. Most of what I listened to was off of the "Network" record label.

I then became fascinated with this kind of electronic music as well as with classical music," he remembers.

Today, Ethodius has one full length self-titled release available at Hot Hits in Roseville for \$12, as well as Flipside in Clawson. Soon, he will be releasing

a five song EP titled "The Aesthetic Myth" which will be available for \$5. Visit [www.ethodius.com](http://www.ethodius.com) for purchasing information, as well as photos, a biography and more.

As for the time to come, Ethodius has a lot in store for his listeners. "My future plans are to do more spoken verses over soundscapes and to continue to compose my own compositions on the piano. I hope that the spoken verses take the listener somewhere and still flow together from one track to the next. I also hope to do more classically-leaning keyboard passages on the synths that I use, similar in the track from the Aesthetic Myth EP, "Arethusa."

