

# 5 QUESTIONS FOR...

JOHN MAY, DRUMMER FOR SINISTRIO

**Q:** On Sinistrío's myspace page you describe your sound as "When dragon met unicorn and fought to the death." What the hell does that mean?

**A:** Our sound is magical and mystical! It can blow fire at you, but it can also make rainbows! You know what? Our organ player (Steve Fletcher) came up with that and even I said "What

## PREVIEW

Sinistrío host the Broken City Jazz Jam Saturday afternoon.

does that mean?" I describe our sound as instrumental groove music.

**Q:** I'm struck by your CD art. You've got a tarantula on the back and that woman on the cover, I can only describe it as Whatever Happened To Baby Jane on acid. One might assume you guys are somewhat twisted. Might that be correct?

**A:** Yes, being twisted is high on our things to do. We're tired of the stigma that a jazz band can't rock. Sure, we have a jazzy sound, but it's also pretty funky with some rock parts. So instead of putting out a very serious looking jazz disc and having everybody see it as a very serious jazz disc we wanted to do something really heavy looking for the artwork so when people saw it they'd go "Woah!"

**Q:** You guys covered a David Bowie on the album — Rebel

Rebel. Why that particular tune?

**A:** Jeff (Drummond, guitarist) is a big Bowie fan and he picked it. We really tried to do something strange and interesting with it.

**Q:** Lots of rock fans won't accept jazz and many jazz fans look down on rock. What's the biggest misconception these genres have about one another?

**A:** With the jazz guys it's the misconception that rock isn't complex, that's it's just three chords and some guy bashing on the drums. It's the opposite, very often. Look at Radiohead or Queen. They're revolutionary. And then the rock guys look at the jazz scene and think it's just really stuffy, high-class suit and tie stuff. It's just not that way. In some situations it is, but that's not what we like.

**Q:** As a jazz drummer who do you think had the cooler drum battle — Buddy Rich versus Jerry Lewis, Buddy Rich versus Gene Krupa or Buddy Rich versus Animal from the Muppets? (All of which can be viewed on YouTube).

**A:** Easy. Buddy Rich and Animal. That whole Buddy Rich show on The Muppets where he comes out and literally plays a drum solo (on every surface) of the stage, I totally stole that for a piece I do. I wrote a drum piece for the stage.

— Heath McCoy