



Hörby 2005-01-27

Ikaros; winter 2005

The Swedish ensemble Ikaros was formed in early 2004 by its founding core members David Lehnberg and Gunnar Forsman. David and Gunnar originally played in the indieband **Leiah** but after 5 years of excessive touring and record releasing they broke up.

“The inspiration was gone. 3 ep’s, 3 albums and 11 European tours later we felt that we had taken the band as far as we could. We did not want to get stale and end up as some old sad “rockband” touring and releasing records without any content or energy.”

With the unique craftsmanship David and Gunnar have together they went to record some new songs in their rehearsal space. Leiah was still around at that time but were heading nowhere. The music that came out sounded like nothing they had done before. Blending the little they knew about electronics with a lot of sloppy harmonic guitar chords they would set the fundament of what would become the sound of Ikaros.

With a new spark they gathered the rest of the people that would form the band. They knew that friendship is what makes a band interesting and put soul into the music so they asked Ralf Kuja-Halkola and Dan Engkvist to join the band. Ralf has been playing music with David since childhood and he is the co-pilot in David’s solo project **Ariel Kill Him (Kasual Recordings)**. With some years at Jazz school David and Gunnar knew he would be the perfect friend to play the organ and the keyboards. Dan, the multicolored musician from Hälsingland would be the other member to complete the band. Dan has the ability to play any instrument given in his hand and is also an old childhood friend of Gunnar so with Dan in the band Ikaros was complete.

With all the members located in the small northern Swedish city **Gävle** and armed with the best rehearsal place the city can give the songwriting and recording of songs has been a true adventure.

“Even if a song is stuffed with melodies and the melodies are fighting each other to be hearable we don’t think that our music is in any way pretentious or hard to listen too. When you listen to a production/song that **Phil Spector** has made you get that wall of sound feeling, the melodies hit you like a speeding train! That’s what we strive for in Ikaros. We also want the listener to feel that the music we make is in no way crafted out of big city complexity, rather than small city boredom and paranoia. Each member has a totally different taste in music but together we have one thing that we love in common; melodies and David’s head is full of them.”

In December 2004 Ikaros signed a record contract with the Swedish indie label Kasual Recordings. A limited edition 7” ep on **Strange Fruit** is finding its way out to the audience in early 2005 and we know you will like it. 4 songs of indie extravaganza! **Speak Music**, the 11 song debut album of Ikaros will be released in Scandinavia April 13th.

“We are getting a lot of e-mails regarding our closure with Leiah. People got really sad when we broke up but as we have written to people that has been asking us about our new band; The future is in Ikaros and we hope you will reunite with us as we will hit the road again! We promise to tour our asses off in 2005 and the forthcoming album and ep will not make anyone disappointed!”

Contact:
Mikael Månsson
Kasual Recordings

E-mail: mikael@kasual.se
Cell: +46 (0)70-440 49 44