

The Muse's Muse FAQ:
So You Want to Submit a CD, Eh?

1. Will you review my work?
 2. Is there anything you won't review?
 3. Will you listen to mp3's on my site, before I send you our CD?
 4. What should I send to you, besides our CD?
 5. Will you *really* listen to our CD?
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 11. What music do you like?
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 13. Does your opinion matter?
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1. Will you review my work?

Depends. I cannot promise to review all works sent to me, because I'd have to quit my day job.

2. Is there anything you won't review?

Again, it depends. There are several genres that I typically like to avoid (just because my knowledge and/or appreciation skills are... basic, to say the least), but I will take a listen to anything sent my way.

3. Will you listen to mp3's on my site, before I send you our CD?

No. Doesn't hurt to ask, but I typically refuse these requests.

4. What should I send to you, besides our CD?

Press kits are not required, but the basic information about who you are, what genre, and all that good stuff, is really helpful.

5. Will you *really* listen to our CD?

My promise to you is that I will listen to your work at least two times before I make my final judgment. So don't go making any accusations about me listening to only the first 10 seconds of each track!

6. How will we know if our CD has been reviewed?

Just bookmark the site, and check back now and then. However, if you would like to be notified when the review is posted, please clearly indicate this somewhere.

7. How long does it take before a review is posted?

Typically, a single review usually takes 2 to 3 weeks before it'll find its way to my page. Keep in mind that I'm just as busy as you are, and with life zipping by at a million miles per hour, 2 to 3 weeks isn't that long – but don't hold me to this.

8. How do I find out if you've decided not to review our CD?

If the review isn't up within a month, then there's a good chance that I've decided not to review it. I apologize for this, but sometimes I have to refuse what I've been sent. There are a number of reasons why I may not review your work, so please don't hesitate to send me an email if you would like to (rationally) discuss my decision.

9. How do you define “new” music?

I'm just looking for an indication of something *different* in your music. Are you pushing the boundaries of the genre by deviating from previous formulas and expectations? Have you brought in other instruments or sounds that add a fresh new flavour? Are you incorporating any expressive mixing techniques? Is there some kind of passionate energy? Have you used your imagination? The list goes on...

10. Will you write bad reviews?

Yes and no. I'm not going to be evil and discredit your album as being nothing more than a \$15 coaster, but that doesn't mean I won't criticize what I've been sent. Hopefully it'll come across as more constructive than destructive, but if it doesn't, please feel free to let me know otherwise.

11. What music do you like?

That's a hard question. Genre wise, I like Ambient, Minimalism, Downtempo, Electronica, Progressive / Art-Rock, Psychedelic, Instrumental Rock, Metal, Jazz, Jam Bands, Funk, and the Blues. Oh, and all the subgenres that typically come along with these broad headings. Sounds vague? Good...

12. Are you just trying to scare and/or worry me?

Not in the least.

13. Does your opinion matter?

I'd like to hope so. If you've read anything I've written, you'll notice I'm repeatedly bringing up the idea that there's a world of music out there to explore. I'm not interested in sameness, partly due to the fact that I strongly encourage the rejection of what's 'accepted.' Having said all of that, I hope to offer a different perspective when it comes to reviewing music, and I hope you see (and appreciate) this stance as well.

So after being emailed numerous times on both my band's website and myspace, I hope this clears things up a bit more for all those who are interested in submitting a CD to me for review. If you want any clarification or further information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Once again, thank you to everyone who takes an interest in my writing, and although I can't make everyone happy – which may be partly due to the fact I've spent the last ten years of my life learning how to think critically – I hope that I can offer a slightly different perspective in the world of reviews.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Jasperse', written in a cursive style.

Alex Jasperse
alex@musesmuse.com