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"A sinister cabal of superior writers."

Music Review: Florian Opahle - Europhonics

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Author: Jeff Perkins — Published: Nov 19, 2008 at 7:11 am

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You may well have seen Florian Opahle before without realising it. I sat in a state of stunned silence watching this fantastically gifted guitarist when he played alongside Greg Lake a couple of years back. I immediately got on the internet and looked him up only to find I should have heard of him earlier.

Florian Opahle was born in Rosenheim, Germany in 1983 and is a highly regarded classically trained guitarist. He even took Master Class lessons from Al DiMeola. In 2004 he worked with Ian Anderson's Orchestral Jethro Tull. His musical interests are far reaching and he can put his extraordinary talent towards playing blues, jazz, classical, rock, and classic rock.

The Ian Anderson tour took him across Europe and his reputation began to spread rapidly radiating out from his native Germany. His work as a session guitarist also took off as he played on albums by Italian artist Alessia D'Andrea and of course Greg Lake, with whom he toured throughout 2005.

Florian has also released a solo album fittingly entitled (for this column at least) *Europhonics*. For the album he is joined by keyboard player Stephan Zeh, and percussionist Timucin Dincel. Florian adds his own

programming skills.

Europhonics contains seven beautifully played instrumental guitar pieces, six of which are original compositions written by Florian. "A Nice Day" is as fresh as it sounds. Anyone who has ever tried to get their fingers around a guitar's fret board will appreciate the astonishingly clean playing here.

There is a nice balance of styles from the Mexican sounding opener through to the classically influenced "Spanish Nights" is a wonderfully atmospheric, exquisitely performed piece. "Dick A

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