

COLLECTIONS OF COLONIES OF BEES



In 1998 **Chris Rosenau** and **Jon Mueller** formed **Collections of Colonies of Bees** as an outlet to explore traditional folk/bluegrass instrumentation combined with modern process and technology. The subsequent self-titled document was released on the UK label The Rosewood Union, and was the first in a string of evolving, exploratory works; each very different, but all with the unifying thread of Rosenau's intricate guitar lines. This string included *Rance*, the surreal electronics of *fa.ce (a)*, and the stunning vocal and pedal steel centered *Meyou*. In 2003 the group began its steady procurement of members, enlisting **Jon Minor** to contribute to the dense blow out ep *Stuck*. The following year, the group signed to Polyvinyl Records, who were interested in what Chris and Jon had been up to

since their work in the group Pele. Adding a fourth member, **Jim Schoenecker**, they gave the label 2/3 of the recordings of *Customer*, which was, according to the label, "the most ambitious project they had undertaken." Spanning two continents and 3 formats, this release was an absolute mind-melter of electronic and acoustic odd rock. In 2006 the Bees reconstituted itself as a powerhouse live group, adding **Thomas Wincek** and **Daniel Spack** to help articulate a dynamic attack of sonic maximalism. Now, they're preparing their next release for Table of the Elements Records based on their bombastic live sound where Rhys Chatham and Arnold Dreyblatt meet pop. Where did the folk/bluegrass go? It's still there. You just can't hear it anymore...

The lineup:

Jon Mueller: drums, percussion

Lineage: Pele/Mouths/Jason Kahn/Nom Tom/Asmus Tietchens/Bhob Rainey/Rhys Chatham

Chris Rosenau: guitar

Lineage: Pele/Vermont/Rhys Chatham

Dan Spack: baritone guitar

Lineage: Sterling

Jim Schoenecker: analog synthesizer, electronics

Lineage: Pele/Mouths/Bhob Rainey/Pressboard

Thomas Wincek: Fender Rhodes piano, electronics

Lineage: Emotional Joystick/Zod Records/Portable Quartet

Press:

"extremely involved and pleasingly organic"

– splendidezine.com

"engaging and comforting"

– allaboutjazz.com

"as relaxing as it is downright messy"

– mundanesounds.com

"COCOB creates sounds most similar in imagery to a waterlogged accordion that is ripping at its bellows."

– lostatsea.net

Sites:

www.myspace.com/collectionsofcoloniesofbees

www.collectionsofcoloniesofbees.net

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeWxEYN3gz0