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Spree at last!

Spreepark is a little bit gay, Asian and pretentious. But that's what makes it so fun.

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Calgary Herald

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Free. The word comes up a lot with the merry band of friendsters known as Spreepark. As in a free-ing experience, free choice, free music and "giving people the freedom to like Spreepark to whatever extent they want."

To that end, explains the band's vibraphonic minstrel Marshall Watson, they're giving away their "labour of love"--two debut CDs, *We're Reinventing Music* and *The Gaysian Invasion*, complete with original artwork, photos and videos. "We're not about money, just awesome creativity," says Watson, a part-time publisher and U of A research assistant. "We didn't want this to turn into a business."

In March 2006, Annalea Sordi and Mark Hamilton of Woodpigeon--no strangers to D.I.Y. recording--first drove north to join Eric Cheung and Watson in the capital city. They captured a punchy, poncey Germanic vibe divined

through Watson and Hamilton, who separately, by sheer coincidence, had recently been to the once-famed attraction in Berlin called Spreepark. "We really embraced the whimsy and mystique of an abandoned amusement park," Watson says, "like the cool and creepy parts--the swan pedal boats still floating in the pool, the old roller coaster."

The growing collective--which includes the sexy-ass voice of Jamie Fooks, a.k.a. Jane Vain--is primed for its debut show, "a big gay concert in a church," Nov. 26 in Edmonton. Okay, so the show ain't free, but it's still in keeping with the band's M.O. Says Hamilton: "We just want to dance, play some loud guitar and sing songs about roller coasters."

Spreepark's albums are available free by download starting Monday, Nov. 26 at spreeparktheband.com.

More New Releases

- Ridley Bent, *Buckles and Boots* (Universal)
- Junior Bloomsday, *Nervous Habitats* (Roast)
- Bran Van 3000, *Rose* (Remstar International).
- Common, *thisisme then: The Best of Common* (Legacy)
- Gorillaz, *D-Sides* (Virgin). Two discs of rarities and remixes - *Inhabitants, The Furniture Moves Underneath* (Drip Audio)
- The Killers, *Sawdust B-sides* (Universal)
- Nine Inch Nails, *Y34RZ3R0-R3MIX3D* (Universal). CD/DVD remix collection
- Seal, *System* (Warner)
- Keith Urban, *Greatest Hits* (Capitol) -Various artists, *Live Earth: The Concerts for a Climate in Crisis* (Warner). CD/DVD highlight set of the international 07/07/07 event.

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