



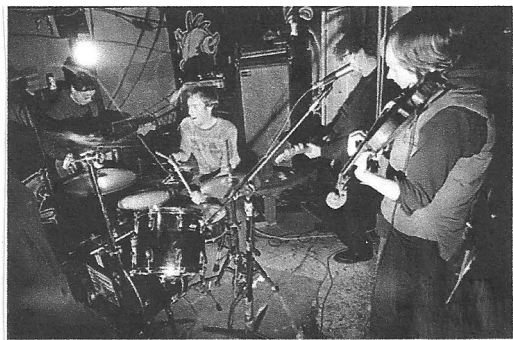
violins aren't punk!

thursday feb 11, 2010
new orleans, la

(the weather is
pure shit.)

hey! this lil zine was written all in one day! my old band was on the cover of maximum rock n roll. we were a three piece with a violin instead of a guitar. The cover drew a few protests that violins are not punk. this isn't a direct response to those comments - who cares about that age old debate over what's really punk?! But it made me wanna pay homage to some great bands with violinists. Enjoy! xo osa

the INTIMa

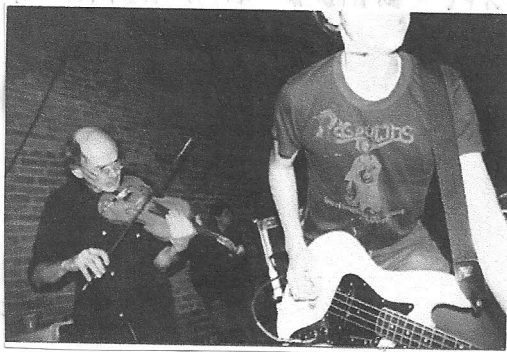


the intima was a band from olympia, wa and portland, or. their violinist's name is Nora and they had a European post-punk sound made even cooler with the addition of a violin. My number one complaint is that you could almost

never hear Nora's violin when they played live. On record, they sound a bit less raucous, but at least you can hear all of the instruments evenly.

I remember seeing the Intima in 2002 when I lived in Washington, DC. Me & Nora talked a little bit and then when I went to see them again after I lived in Portland, OR, I talked to her again and she ~~totally~~ totally remembered my name, and it gave me the impression that people in the Northwest were very down to earth and friendly people. The other

reason I really liked the Intima is because they had political lyrics, which, when done right, always gives music more depth.



behead the prophet

is a mythical band. When you

say their name, it feels so heavy and important, like saying "Zeus" or something. This is another band from the PNW and I didn't even realize until I just looked it up

that they are still an active band. They've gotta be at least 15 years old! Hasn't their violin player keeled over yet?? That guy was already gettin up there back in the 90s.

BEHEAD THE PROPHET is an experimental hardcore band with... you guessed it: a violin! I have never seen them which is maybe why I think of them as mythical creatures. They are most definitely a spectacle because it's not everyday that you see a 60 year old balding dude thrashing around with a violin in a hardcore band. You know?



the **RainCoats**

This band taught me everything I know about how to make music. Ok, I'm about to NERD OUT here. If you can imagine, most of my ideas about what punk music is is based on this band's first two records. For most, punk is about hard, fast and loud. Because of the

Raincoats, the version of punk I admire the most is weird, experimental, fearlessly inept, and obviously influenced by Black music (reggae, disco, r&b, take your pick.) Oh, and also MINIMAL, as opposed to overbearing.

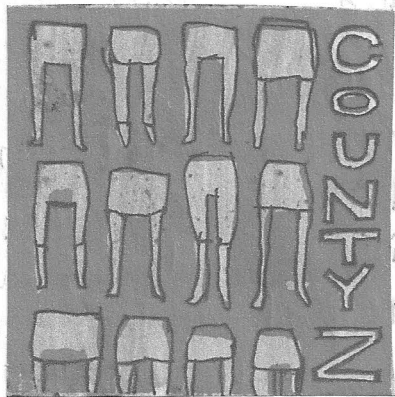
So the first Raincoats record came out in 1979 or 1980. I can't remember which. For those of you who still haven't heard of this band after multiple re-issues, they are an all-female experimental punk band from England. Their

first self titled record shows their punk roots more than their 2nd, ODYSHAPE, which is more loosely structured & atmospheric. Their violinist's name is Vicki Aspinall and as a violinist myself, I am most influenced by a single Raincoats song called "The Void." Her dry, moody violin sound is perfect and sublime and when my band New Bloods recorded our LP, I knew I wanted my violin sound to be as much like hers as possible. I could write a whole zine about the Raincoats and

maybe one day I will. I didn't get to see them play their recent reunion shows but I'm glad Kill Rock Stars decided to re-issue their debut LP on vinyl.

COUNTY Z

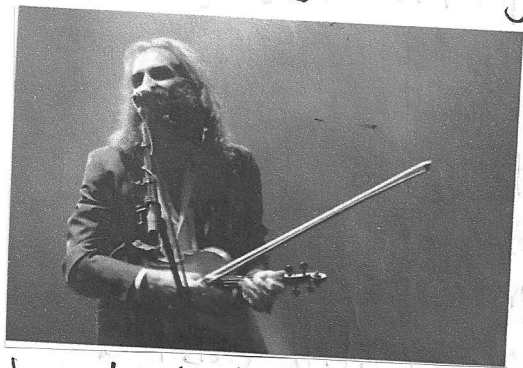
I found out about this band through my ex-girlfriend, Adee. Her friend



Brice from New Orleans had put out their record & she'd seen them play before. I never saw them play but I

used to listen to one of their
tapes with Adee and I also
acquired their split 7" with
Impracticle Cockpit, an old New
Orleans band. The 7" features
the songs "Psyche Ward" and
"Scientist" which musically are
hard to pin down. They have
a similar "European punk" feel,
like the Intima, but aren't
as post-punky. Bah, I hate
trying to describe music! The
singer/violinist of COUNTY 2
was a woman named Naomi.
She also played guitar on
some songs. "Scientist" has an

angular rhythm and alternates
between minimal & noisy parts.
It's really lo-fi & cool sounding.
I'm listening to it right now!



the dirty three

I used to
be waaay
into this

band, but then I put 'em on re-
cently and thought it was a
little boring. I just don't listen
to very much slow, instrumental
music anymore. The dirty
Three are the only band in
this zine that is instrumental.

The ~~won~~ violin is a wonderful substitute for vocals, and was invented to mimic the human soprano voice (viola is alto, cello is tenor & the bass is... bass.) Dirty Three are from Australia and I found out about them in the late 90s or early 2000s. I have no idea if they still exist or not. They play songs that have a bit of a slow groove & sound a bit gypsy-ish by default, and then they have songs that are kind of experimental & free. I believe

everyone except the ~~dr~~ violinist from the Dirty Three is the backing band on Cat Power's MOON PIX LP.

The violin brings a unique sound to any band, and the Dirty Three is no different. Like other bands in this zine, they are difficult to categorize or label. One cool thing about this band is that they improvise. Not in a jazzy, overly-complex way, but in a delicate, leaves-blowing-in-the-wind way. And their violinist, Warren Ellis, is totally shredding.

NEW BLOODS



The question I got the most when I played violin in this band is: "Is the violin the same as a fiddle?" Well, if you were wondering, dear reader, yes it is. The fiddle is the violin's "folk" name. In reviews, we got a lot of language around hoedowns or kicking up dust

around a goddamn campfire
and other embarrassing stuff
like that. It's not like I'm down
on a good hoedown - I love old
time music - that's just not what
I was going for. I wanted it
to be more like if Vicky Aspinall
and John Cale had sex and
popped out a black punk rock
baby (me!) tada!!

I've been playing the violin on
& off since I was 7 or 8, so it's
sound isn't such a novelty to
me like it is for other people,
although I ^{still} do love its sound.
I guess, even though I loved
the sound our band made, I

felt like playing the violin wasn't as fun as playing regular rock instruments and it made me realize why people have stuck to bass, drums & guitar thru thick & thin. Those instruments allow you to play music in a much more relaxed posture, making it easier to Rock OUT. You can rock out on the violin, but it's harder.

Being in a band with no guitar, and an unusual drummer sometimes made me wonder if we were even playing rock music anymore. But we claimed PUNK & no one ever challenged us until the silly ^{MAR} thing.

Thanks for reading!

on the cover is laurie anderson,
performance artist and 80s exp-
erimental new wave pioneer, playing
one of her inventions: a viophon-
ograph. it's a violin with a 7" on
top that is played by drawing a bow
across it that has a record needle
mounted to it. sick, huh?

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shotgun seamstress #3 1/2