

Karibow

Passionate, melodic & neo-progressive

Karibow's very own neo-progressive sound combines intense and dramatic compositions with catchy vocal melodies and complex grooves. Varied guitar work, cinematic keyboards, arrangements full of hook lines and epic lyrics indicate a musical relationship with artists like SAGA, Marillion and Yes. However, the strong melodic rock influences in Karibow's music are also rooted in the tradition of AOR bands like Toto, Journey or Asia.



Milestones from 1996 to 2016

Karibow was founded by Oliver Rüsing in 1996/97. Over the years, various CD productions have documented a long musical development between progressive rock and adult oriented rock that was eventually crowned by the first achievement of the German Rock & Pop Award for "Man of Rust" in 2011. After the release of "Addicted" in 2014, Karibow got honoured with the Rock & Pop Award again, this time as "Best Progressive Band". Karibow signed to Progressive Promotion Records in January 2016 and thereupon released their overwhelmingly successful double album "Holophinium". In April 2016 Karibow toured with Canadian band SAGA performing live on stage with SAGA vocalist Michael Sadler.



Karibow Live

The Karibow Live line up consists of Oliver Rüsing, Jörg Eschrig, Gerald Nahrgang and Thomas Wischt. It stands for the translation of Karibow's complex studio productions into powerful live arrangements and passionate performances.

Top-rated and awarded Studio Productions

Eventhough each one of the last three Karibow productions was awarded or rated one of the top albums of the year, "Holophinium" is standing out as Karibow's first concept album that's also an international joint venture with many well-reputed musicians involved. Amongst others, contributions came from SAGA vocalist Michael Sadler, Australian keyboardist and orchestrator Sean Timms (Southern Empire/Unitopia), Corvus Stone mastermind Colin Tench and Errorhead's lead singer Karsten Stiers. In October 2016 the long sold out "Man of Rust" album was re-released as a special edition due to the increasing demand for Karibow's back catalogue. This first reissue was the starting point for a whole number of future re-releases that will make the older Karibow material available again to a constantly growing audience.



Web Links

[Official Karibow Website \(Link\)](#)

[Karibow on Facebook \(Link\)](#)

[HOLOPHINIUM - Facebook Album Page \(Link\)](#)

[MAN OF RUST - Facebook Album Page \(Link\)](#)

[Karibow YouTube Channel \(Link\)](#)

[Karibow Wikipedia Page \(in German\) \(Link\)](#)

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PROGRESSIVE
Promotion
RECORDS

Karibow

HOLOPHINIUM

Original release: 4 April 2016

Album Reviews and Comments



"10 out of 10 - As melodic as Marillion's *Season's End*, as epic as Ayreon. A magnificent double album with interesting and profound lyrics, perfect production and artwork. These 110 minutes are over all too fast. Absolutely essential!"

Neoprogram (F)

"Karibow created a new musical gem!"

Stormbringer Magazine (A)

"10 out of 10! Karibow offer a showpiece of German prog rock. It's total pleasure!"

Music in Belgium (B)

"Tip of the Month: Big applause for Holophinium. May many prog lovers listen to this piece of work!"

IO Pages (NL)

"Holophinium is an immersive and thoroughly engrossing experience. The musicianship is staggering and Rüsing engages you intellectually and emotionally."

The Progressive Aspect (UK)

"To release one disc of excellent melodic prog would be enough for most bands, but to create two simultaneously is just plain showing off! If one of the genre leaders came up with the seventeen tracks Karibow have here, we'd be hailing them heroes ... this should show you how good it all is!"

Fireworks Magazine (UK)

"Varied, always powerful but never overloaded, well done arrangements and exciting hook lines!"

Eclipsed Magazine (GER)

"Holophinium is a well written, well intelligent and well produced double album.

It's already a Top 10 Album of 2016 for me. A sheer progressive masterpiece!"

Robert Brady, Power of Prog (USA)

"This album is one of the year's most exciting releases!"

Empire Magazin (GER)

"9 out of 10. Excellent production, unmatched musicians and tracks sung with conviction!"

Profil (CAN)

"Terrific songwriting and musical performance!"

Prog Archives (USA)



KariBow

A D D I C T E D

Original release: 18 November 2014



Album Reviews and Comments

"The CD sounds excellent. Some great musical ideas!"

Michael Sadler, SAGA (CAN)

"Full of hooklines and elegantly arranged! In terms of quality, nearly all of the material is of an outstanding level. Similar to: It Bites, Saga."

Eclipsed Magazin (GER)

"This CD covers over 78 minutes and is filled with killer cuts, telling lyrics, awesome jams and instrumentation that is so finely created and performed. This CD is a definite must listen! I give this excellent piece of work a resounding **STANDING OVATION!**"

Nor'Easter Magazine (USA)

"Oliver manages to create music that doesn't take a lot of listening sessions to decide if the tracks are worth listening to, because all of them are!"

Background Magazine (NL)

"Really an album for a big audience! Oliver's voice is wonderful to listen to, catchy vocal melodies and great arrangements. The fresh sound is striking as soon as you start listening.

This production is well done in every detail."

Progpraat (NL)

"There are lots of great hook lines. The musical performance is highly convincing and the good vocals will surely reach a big audience."

Twilight Mag (GER)

"A nod must also go to the excellent production!"

Prog Radar (UK)



MAN OF RUST

Original release: 2011, reissued as a Special Edition on 28 October 2016

Album Reviews and Comments

"9 out of 10! Guitars played like The Edge (U2) and Andy Summers of The Police, vocal work as you know if from great American bands like Toto, Boston or Chicago. I assure the world that you will once again be part of Magic Oliver's own universe. Please discover this artist!"

Music in Belgium (B)

"8 out of 10: Man of Rust is more complex than it seems to be after the first listen. The lyrics, the music, the way Oliver sings - everything is in balance!"

Muzine Music Magazine (NL)

Detailed Band History and Background Information



I. The foundation phase (1996-1999)

Karibow were founded by multi-instrumentalist Oliver Rüsing (* 8 February 1969) in winter 1996/97. Originally starting as a six-piece band, Karibow's early work was influenced by different kinds of rock music the band combined to create their own progressive style. Karibow's music first leaned towards hard rock, but the early recordings already showed a strong affinity for rhythmically experimental grooves and catchy melodies. Later the band also integrated computer based technologies in their arrangements, e.g. by using sequencers. Oliver Rüsing had always been responsible for writing and composing. Playing drums since the age of eleven, he had already been working as both a live and a studio musician in the 90's doing session jobs in Europe and North America with bands like Counterparts, Chinook, Maquis and the Canadian Swell Guys. Since Karibow's early productions were originally released under the same pseudonyms Rüsing had been using in his former solo projects, the name "Karibow" first appeared on the 1998 album "Supernatural Foe Vocalized". Eventhough the group continued working together successfully, a small creative core began to form as time went by consisting of Oliver Rüsing and keyboardist Berthold Fehmer due the fact that all other band members were also engaged in various side projects.



II. The "Tribal Avenue" years (1999-2003)

In 1999 Karibow had practically become a two person music enterprise and the remaining Rüsing/Fehmer duo had confined themselves to studio work and their involvement in multiple audio productions. In the same year, Karibow's first development phase came to an end with the release of the neo-progressive concept album "Three Times Deeper" whereupon the band mainly focused on writing melodic rock music at the beginning of the new century. Therefore, "Tribe" (2000) and "Tribal Avenue" (2001) turned out to be far less experimental than Karibow's earlier productions and were both classified as melodic mainstream rock with some progressive elements.

In 2002 keyboard and piano player Berthold Fehmer decided to leave Karibow to concentrate on his second progressive rock project Junk Farm which he had founded in 2001.

III. The "Ayganyan Project I" (2003-2007)

From 2003 to 2005 Rüsing produced cinematic music for the "Ayganyan Project I". The experimental movie required dramatic compositions based on layered atmospheric soundscapes Karibow eventually provided by the release of the "Ayganyan Project I" soundtrack in 2006. A second revisited edition was released in 2007 and Karibow hereby closed a circle referring back to the project's musical past which had always been strongly influenced by electronic music: No acoustic instruments were used during the recording process of the album. In 2005 Karibow also produced their only musical piece in German language entitled "Besser" which was later released as an EP. The title track was re-recorded again in English ("Better") to become part of the album "A History of Inorganic Talk".

IV. The "Inorganic Talk" years (2007-2011)

Progressive rock turned back into Karibow's music by the time the concept album "A History of Inorganic Talk" came out in 2007. Shortly afterwards, the album was followed by two EPs entitled "Inorganic Talk (Acoustic)" (2008) and "Hollow Be My World II" (2009). Both CDs contained acoustic versions of songs that could already be found on previous albums, but both records additionally included some crossover progressive tracks of again more complex nature. At that time, Karibow only sporadically appeared live on stage doing a few unplugged gigs every now and then. Aside from his studio work, Rüsing also performed live playing experimental electronic compositions as a solo artist using an enhanced electronic drum kit and digital sampling technology.



V. Evolving into a live project (2011-2016)



After the release of "Man of Rust" and the first German Rock and Pop Award at the end of 2011, Rüsing revived the idea of Karibow as a six-piece band fifteen years after their original foundation in 1996. In the period that followed, the studio project was complemented by a live band. Initially struggling with an inconstant line up, Karibow's public live representation was eventually established as a group of permanent members including Markus Bergen (keyboards), Gerald Nahrgang (drums), Oliver Rüsing (vocals, guitars), Christopher Thomas (guitars, vocals) and Thomas Wischt (bass). In November 2014 Karibow's sixteenth studio

album "Addicted" aroused more public interest than any earlier Karibow release and the band finally got caught by the radar of the prog music scene. During the "Addicted" production and mastering process, Rüsing cooperated with Eroc, formerly drummer of German band Grobschnitt.

VI. Holophinium and beyond (since 2016)

In January 2016 Karibow signed to the German progressive label "Progressive Promotion Records". When the new double album "Holophinium" came out one in April 2016, it was enthusiastically welcomed by the international progressive rock audience. The album features several contributions from well-reputed musicians like e.g. SAGA vocalist Michael Sadler, Australian keyboardist Sean Timms (Unitopia/Southern Empire), British-Swedish guitarist Colin Tench (CTP) and German singer Karsten Stiers (Errorhead). In April 2016 Karibow toured with SAGA performing parts of their live set together with Michael Sadler. Due to the increasing demand for the earlier recordings, Karibow started a series of reissues by re-releasing a special edition of "Man of Rust" in October 2016 including four yet unreleased bonus tracks. Shortly afterwards, Rüsing announced the reissue of the whole Karibow back catalogue in the coming years.

Name

The name "Karibow" derives from the East African Kiswahili/Swahili language, in which the word "Karibu" is being used a welcome greeting. To avoid getting mixed up with the name of the North American reindeer on the one hand and also due to his personal habit of choosing the character of the ranger in role-playing games ("carrying a bow") on the other, Rüsing modified the expression "Karibu" and finally made up the word "Karibow".

Operating principles

Some sources describe Karibow as a one man project rather than a band. However, the structure of Karibow has both project and band characteristics. Besides being the main musician and producer, Rüsing does all the writing and studio arrangements. Then again, all members of the live band are equally responsible for the live arrangements. In the past, members of Karibow had pointed out the efficiency and productiveness made possible by such a division of tasks. In April 2015, Rüsing stated in an interview with the US online magazine *Music Web Express* that a stronger involvement of live band members and guest musicians in upcoming studio productions was intended. As a consequence, Markus Bergen and Christopher Thomas both contributed to Karibow's 2016 release "Holophinium" as guests amongst others. However, Rüsing still emphasized there's basically a separation between Karibow's studio productions and the Karibow live band.

Awards

In 2011 Karibow received the German Rock and Pop Award from the Jury of the German Rock and Pop Musicians' Association (DRMV) for "Man of Rust" in the "Best Arrangement" category. The award presentation ceremony took place on 17 December 2011 at the Rhein-Main-Halls in Wiesbaden, Germany. Three years later and one month after the release of their album "Addicted" on 16 November 2014, Karibow were once again honoured with the German Rock and Pop Award in Siegen, this time for "Best Progressive Band". As a reaction to press speculations on Karibow's band character, Oliver Rüsing and drummer Gerald Nahrgang showed up to accept the award together on 13 December 2014 at the Siegerland Hall.



Band members

Current members

- * **Oliver Rüsing:** vocals, guitar, keyboards, bass, drums
- * **Jörg Eschrig:** guitar, vocals
- * **Thomas Wischt:** bass
- * **Gerald Nahrgang:** drums

Former members (in alphabetical order)

- * **Manuel Becker:** guitar (2014)
- * **Jürgen Borchert:** keyboards (2014–2015)
- * **Markus Bergen:** keyboards (2015–†2016)
- * **Berthold Fehmer:** keyboards (1997–2001)
- * **Jens Happe:** guitar (1996–1998)
- * **Jörg Imhof:** vocals (1996–1998)
- * **Christoph Kemper:** keyboards (1996–1997)
- * **Marcus Müller:** bass (1996–1999)
- * **Marcus Pukropski:** drums (1996–1997)
- * **Christopher Thomas:** guitar (2014–2016)

Session and studio musicians (in alphabetical order)

- * **Joerg Eschrig:** mandolin, backing vocals (2016) (studio)
- * **Daniel Neustadt:** fretless bass (2016) (studio)
- * **Michael Sadler:** vocals (2016) (studio)
- * **Martin Schroer:** guitar (1998) (studio)
- * **Karsten Stiers:** vocals (2016) (studio)
- * **Colin Tench:** guitar (2016) (studio)
- * **Sean Timms:** keyboards (2016) (studio)

Discography

Karibow

- * 1998: **Supernatural Foe Vocalized** (Album)
- * 1999: **Three Times Deeper** (EP)
- * 2000: **Tribe** (Album)
- * 2001: **Tribal Avenue** (Album)
- * 2005: **Besser** (EP)
- * 2006: **Echoes from the Evil Past (The Best of 1997-2005 Remastered)** (Compilation)
- * 2007: **The Ayganyan Project I - Land of Frozen Thoughts** (Original Soundtrack)
- * 2007: **A History of Inorganic Talk** (Album)
- * 2008: **Inorganic Talk (Acoustic)** (EP)
- * 2009: **Hollow Be My World II** (EP)
- * 2011: **Man of Rust** (Album)
- * 2014: **Addicted** (Album)
- * 2016: **Holophinium** (Double Album)
- * 2016: **Man of Rust Special Edition** (Special Reissue)

Green Water Project

- * 1997: **Shush** (Album)

O.M.R. Works

- * 1997: **The Midi Years** (Album)
- * 1997: **The Echo Sessions** (Album)

Early recordings (O.M.R. Works / Oliver Rüsing)

- * 1990: **Refuge in Trance** (Album)
- * 1989: **Waterfront** (Album)

