



Andy Rinehart
PillBox
Contamine World Music

Biography

"Andy's music is so fresh and different compared to anything you usually hear. I believe he's a very richly-textured person with a lot of perceptions about the world and relationships—and he has a really unique way of articulating them in his songs."

—David Torn, *ECM Recording Artist and producer of Rinehart's Jason's Chord*

Jazziz said singer-songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist Andy Rinehart's last album *Jason's Chord* "might be the best progressive album of the year, perhaps the entire decade." *Innerviews'* Anil Prasad declared it "one of the finest singer-songwriter albums I've ever heard. If radio had a soul, Andy Rinehart would be a star." *Jason's Chord*, produced by renowned avant-garde guitarist David Torn, and featuring the talents of ex-Japan bassist Mick Karn and ex-Bruce Springsteen drummer Kurt Wortman made a major impact in alternative music circles. Rinehart's new follow-up CD *Pillbox*, several years in the making, takes his songs of irony and paradox to the next level, and is set to further propel the momentum and interest created by its predecessor.

Rinehart spent the first few years of the new millennium building a computer-based studio in Connecticut called the Jewel Box and recording *Pillbox* using a number of New York area musicians from string and wind players to various band performers including Matte Henderson, Gregg Sulzer and Walter Strauss. Incorporating some of his newfound interest in electronica, *Pillbox* is an eclectic journey through Rinehart's warped view of composition, world music, studio production and melodic honesty, though Rinehart himself admits the world music component of *Jason's Chord* has "sort of disappeared amongst more contemporary western influences."

Born in Norwalk, CT, USA, Rinehart used to analogize the purpose of his songs as vehicles for storytelling but has now disposed of any attempt to classify his work. His interest in a variety of cultures was informed initially by an itinerant lifestyle, and also by having grown up in a home filled with diverse musical sounds ranging from classical to obscure folk to pop music, jazz and Indian classical music. He studied guitar as a child, and at the age of 10 he was recruited by a substitute teacher at his

elementary school to sing backing vocals for two pieces performed by Judy Collins on a television show. At age 11, he found himself performing live on a local college radio station. Afterwards, he learned piano, and played in several rock bands during high school.

After high school, Rinehart studied music and theatre at Simon's Rock, a progressive college that introduced him more directly to non-western music forms and instruments. He subsequently attended the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) to study African and Indian music full-time under A. Dasgupta, Taranath Rao and the Ladzekpo brothers. After a year spent traveling boxcar style across the U.S., he returned to California to undergo a lutherie apprenticeship, enabling him to work as a journeyman instrument repairer specializing in stringed and ethnic instruments. He also began to build his own instruments, including experimental percussion and guitars.

Having returned to Connecticut in the late 80s, Rinehart became a studio engineer and voice instructor, and played in a number of rock bands, all while continuing his lutherie experiments. His formal musical education continued when he enrolled in the classical conservatory of the State University of New York where he pursued a degree in composition. While at the university he formed his own group, Zulife, and backed regular CBGB's headliners Being Don and Nothingness. His first album, *Walking Home*, received the same kind praise that is generally awarded by the press to him. 1997's *Jason's Chord* saw him combine with Torn, Karn and Wortman to make the statement that would mark him as a dot on the map. Following the release of *Jason's Chord*, Rinehart toured Europe with the Mick Karn band as their solo opening act.

In the late '90s, Rinehart performed as textural accordionist on Richard Leo Johnson's Blue Note release *Language* alongside with Paul McCandless, Glen Moore, and Cyro Baptista.



For more information about Andy Rinehart, please email us at rinehart@colorgray.net

Discography:

Pillbox (Contamine World Music)

Jason's Chord (CMP)

Walking Home (Contamine World Music)