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# Eric Hofbauer & The Infrared Band

## *Myth Understanding*

standing

myth

Creative Nation Music CNM 011  
UPC: 7 00261-23988 0

### Musicians

Eric Hofbauer, guitar  
Kelly Roberge, tenor saxophone  
Michael Montgomery, acoustic bass  
Miki Matsuki, drums

### Tracks

1. Hidden Haiku (8:23)
2. Jac MacTalkin' (3:38)
3. A Drunk Monk (9:50)
4. The Chump Killer (7:15)
5. The Holly Stomp (3:40)
6. The Shady Lambert Circus (12:51)
  - a. Shady Lambert At Large
  - b. WWMMMD
  - c. Fearless
7. Molecular Mischief (5:52)
8. Fortuna Spins The Wheel (5:17)
9. Flex Flux (11:17)

All compositions by Eric Hofbauer  
(Spice-E Music/BMI)

Recorded August 2007 at Notable Productions  
in Watertown, MA

### Description

Boston-based guitarist/composer Eric Hofbauer makes his recorded debut as a bandleader with *Myth Understanding* (Creative Nation Music CNM 011), featuring his year-old working quartet, Eric Hofbauer and The Infrared Band.

With the same signature blend of intelligence and whimsy heard on his innovative 2004 solo guitar recording, *American Vanity* (CNM 003), and The Blueprint Project with Han Bennink's well-received 2007 release, *People I Like* (CNM 008), Hofbauer's newest ensemble explores his intermingling interests in wordplay, mythology and puzzles.

"If there's a single overarching ethos to the band it would be 'tell your story,'" Hofbauer explains. "All my compositions have a back story or theme and I encourage each player to add their own take on those stories and to play from personal experience. There's no role playing, I compose to each of their strengths, featuring everyone and challenging their limits."

"You can bet profound things are discovered—always in a playful spirit, of course," writes music journalist Ed Hazell in the liner notes. "But Eric has more to offer than his sense of humor. There's always a strong concept behind any of Eric's musical endeavors, whether it's a composition or a recording. On this album, the compositions fall into three general categories: compositions based on myths, compositions derived from sung phrases, and what Eric calls (with the inevitable pun) 'Puzzle Pieces.'"

### Distribution sources

Physical distribution by City Hall Records

Digital distribution by Independent Online Distribution Alliance (IODA)

Direct sales from [cnmpro.com](http://cnmpro.com)



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### Additional Talking Points

- + From the name of the band to the cover art to the title of the record, this project exemplifies Hofbauer's penchant for skillfully weaving levity into his multi-layered music.
- + In addition to the obvious double meanings and tongue twisters, his compositions were inspired by a nightmare, overheard phrases and his interest in the commonalities between improvisation, Eastern philosophy and the martial arts.
- + Like most of Hofbauer's musical collaborations, The Infrared Band brings together musicians of different ages and perspectives to serve a common goal of exploring new musical frontiers. Saxophonist Kelly Roberge and bassist Michael Montgomery are both younger musicians that originally came to his attention through mutual friends.
- + "You have to give a good deal of credit to Eric for bringing this team together, really together," wrote *Cadence* reviewer Stu Vandermark after a recent concert. "Very impressive growth in such a short time. They really hear each other and act accordingly."
- + Despite his chosen instrument, Hofbauer takes his inspiration as a performer, composer and bandleader from non-guitarists such as Fats Waller, Art Tatum, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, Eric Dolphy and John Coltrane.

### About Eric Hofbauer

Over the past decade, Eric Hofbauer has built a career as a versatile performer in an eclectic range of ensembles. Critics have noted his "crisp and complete guitar work" (Walter Tunis, *Lexington Herald-Leader*), "accessible approach that emphasizes clear articulation and perky harmony" (Jim Santella, *Cadence*) and "respect for tradition without treating it like glass" (Mark Keresman, *JazzReview.com*). "Hofbauer's performances are as unconventional as his choice of repertoire," adds *Boston Phoenix* Associate Arts Editor, Jon Garelick. "He plays a big Guild hollow-bodied archtop without extra effects, preferring a dry, unprocessed acoustic sound that emphasizes his percussive attack, the squeak or ping of plectrum or bare finger against string."

In addition to solo performances and leading The Infrared Band, his current projects include his duo with vocalist Rebecca Shrimpton and the longstanding collective, The Blueprint Project, which he

co-leads with multi-reedist Jared Sims and pianist Tyson Rogers. He also works in a guitar duo with Garrison Fewell, which released its own debut, *The Lady of Khartoum* (CNM 010), in March 2008. Hofbauer is also a teacher of jazz guitar and jazz history at Emerson College and the University of Rhode Island, and founder of the Creative Nation Music label, which documents the music of many of Boston's most distinctive jazz performers.

Learn more at [www.cnmpro.com](http://www.cnmpro.com)



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