

M I T E K



Mitek records is a swedish label, ran by Mikael Stävostrand. He replied to our questions on August 25th.

- I'd like to know a little biographical information about you, such as how old you are, where you grew up, your schooling... Any sort of information that could help readers to understand how you got to be who you are today.

born 1972, grew up around scandinavia, mostly sweden. Started creating music around 1990, more ambient industrial stuff. started to organise shows in stockholm 1996, since then organised between 8-20 events a year , festivals, clubs, shows etc. started mitek in the end of 2000, but it's in this year I've been starting to putting a lot more effort in the label. released my own music on force inc. since last year, coming from a more "serious" minimal background, starting to experiment with club and dance music.

- Which friendly piece of advice would you give to someone who wants to start his label ? What used to be tape-only labels are now CDR-only labels. Do you think it makes it easier for people to start their label and run less risks ?

I don't think you should start a label, unless you are willing to spend a lot of time and money on it. for me most, cdr labels release stuff they don't really believe in, if they

really believed in the product they would release it properly. of course it's a bit more expensive and a bigger risk, but there's too much music released now, and the standard is quite bad.

- **To me the role of a label should be to discover new acts, help them get promotion, distribution, spread the word on their creativity. It seems that could be the motto behind your label. Right ? Could you introduce us to some of the acts on your label ? (names, how you met, anecdotes...)**

yes, that's the main purpose behind mitek, since I've been around for quite a long time as an artist and organiser, I've met a lot of talented people who for different reasons haven't released their music. that's the usual way I meet artists I hook up for mitek. usually we have a long "dialog" before any masters, just discussing music, sounds etc.

actually, claudia bonarelli is the first artist I released before we ever met in person.

- **I have noticed in your list of distributors that some of the companies are mailorder rather than proper distributors, or better say mailorder-lists that have extended their activities and sell to some very specialised Indie record stores. But they do not sell to chain stores. So do you think that it would be useless for your records to reach those music supermarkets ?**
- **Do you wish to keep your music within a certain circle of specialized connoisseurs ?**
- **Or did you choose to keep things, prices under control and thus avoid mass-distribution in certain countries ?**

hmmm, the list you're referring to is a list which mentions both distributors and other sources as mailorders etc. this is something we're working very hard on at the moment, we want to spread the mitek releases as much as possible, so of course we want to be in the "supermarkets", we don't have any "elite" thinking about our music, the purpose is as we talked about earlier, to spread and promote these new artists and new sounds.

mitek recently signed a deal with integrale as main distributor, and we're at the moment signing up local distributors in the different areas. Our goal is to give interesting, high quality, experimental electronic music to as many people as possible.

- ***Mitek is also a mailorder-list, has it helped you to do that ? Do benefits help to pay for your releases ?**

no, mitek is not a mailorder-list, you're thinking about the nursery- the organisation I've been working for as organiser/ promotor. mitek is a label, as well sometimes a platform for some artists, when we do showcases and stuff like that around the world.

- **What gave you the reason, or motivation to start your label ? Weren't you satisfied with other labels' music ? Was it a good alley to self-release your records ?**

as I mentioned earlier, I knew so many good artists, and music which wasn't released. as well as I live(d) in Sweden, where there are no labels for this kind of music.



- **Did you start with a certain idea, concept ?**

the concept is to release Scandinavian artists, which do good quality-, interesting new electronic music .. then it can be more minimal as Andreas Berthling, to more clubby as Håkan Lidbo .. as long as it's interesting and sounds new.

- ***How would you describe a typical Mitek act ? How did you choose the name of the label ? Why ?**

the name was just something I was thinking about using for something, and it became the name of the label. a typical Mitek act, hmmm.. has an interesting approach to the sounds, open for ideas, friendly etc.

- **Most labels have an example, or a favorite other label which they like, and you ?**
- **Any label you could say was an influence on you ?**
- **Any label that you think has been influenced by yours ?**

think most labels have influenced in some ways, but can't necessarily point out one. Mego, Mille Plateaux, Tigerbeat 6 are interesting labels for me. both in the way they work as well as the releases and artists. but don't know if they have influenced me more than others.

- **You pay a lot of attention to packaging and your website is good-looking. Could you give us details on the person in charge of the design ? You recently hired Paul Farrington, aka Tonne, who is also closely working with BiP_HOp, Sulphur records...**
- **What is according to you the most beautiful record/art-object you ever issued ?**

maybe the next mitek cd, with minimalistic sweden (out in nov) , wich is designed by paul. packaging and design are always important, as they are the approach the to music in some way. this is quite difficult as well, since the packaging is just packaging and it's the music you buy, so need to find ways where they both work together. mitek just started to work with paul as you mentioned and I think it will work good. he has more interest and feeling for the music then most designers (who really don't care about the sounds they are designing for).

- **Often people do not consider "microsounds" to be rich and believe that very few is happening... Often associating it with the theory of "less is more", whereas a lot of things and ideas can be noticed in the music of many so-called "microsound" artists.**
- **Would you say that this is because many listeners :**
 - a) do not listen**
 - b) do not care**
 - c) can't understand the subtelties**

hmm.. all of them I guess. microsound can be so serious sometimes, I think many of the artists

scares away possible audience/ listeners by beeing so "stiff" .. of course they have all the right

to be serious and to be respected, but they shouldn't force this onto the audience, they have to be more openminded in regards of their audince, otherwise there will be the small "elitist" crowd as usual. well, that just my point of view .. after organising (and playing) around 100 microsound shows.

for example in stockholm, we have increased our audience from around 15 to an average of 150, when I realised and got bored of doing shows just only for "purists". This music is difficult, but you don't need to present it in an even more difficult situation/ envirement etc.

- **Could you give us some precisions on the actual scene in Sweden ? Any other label, activists that you feel close to ?**

the scene is sweden is good artist-wise, but very bad - show-/ organiser-wise.

There are very few organisers around and very few places to perform. in stocckholm you have the nursery, malmoe komplott/ starfield simulation (a label and organsier, mainly more microsound stuff) and in gotenburg ideall rec. Is starting up a monthly club

- **How does your selection process work? Are they pieces personally requested, or volunteered to you ?**

do you mean for records? both ways, I get suggestions maybe I comment etc. untill we get a master we like.

- **Is there anything that you regret or that you'd change if you could ?**

some more money to spend on releases wouldn't be wrong.



- **Any album or band that you wish you had issued on Mitek ?**

can't think of any at the moment.

- **What are your goal as a label. Futureplans ?**

to expand the label, get better distribution for the releases. promote the artists more. work harder etc.

- **Upcoming releases ? Please give some details on every band, name of the record, etc...**

mitek7ep

LITEremixed /remixes of mitek1cd, Mikael Stavostrand - LITE by:

a1. john harding : remix

a2. håkan lidbo : lite - nano remix

b1. rechenzentrum : the final solution

b2. andreas tilliander : remix

mastered by Andreas Tilliander at Repeatle. published by container publishing

design : marisa. format: 12" EP. cat.no: mitek7ep. releasedate : october 2002

mitek8ep

Johan Skugge - quarters EP

a1. vaesen

a2. eko

b1. kyrkogaard

b2. pool

published by Warner/Chapell - mastered by Andreas Tilliander at Repeatle

design : marisa - format: 12" EP - cat.no: mitek8ep - releasedate : october 2002

Håkan Lidbo - tba 12"

floor versions of the 06/10/60 cd.

incl. a remix by VITA

published by Container Publishing - format: 12" EP - cat.no: mitek10ep

releasedate : november 2002

Minimalistic Sweden - Standard KlickmusikCD

group consisting of andreas tilliander (mille plateaux), stefan thor (aka folie, mitek) and pfeffenbauer. clear and crisp funkminimalism.

recorded at stattena, masterboot, repeatle and scanline in february 2002

minimalistic sweden:

anders nordgren

stefan thor

andreas tilliander

anders martinsson

www.minimalisticsweden.tk <<http://www.minimalisticsweden.tk>>

published by Container Publishing

mastered by Andreas Tilliander at Repeatle

design : Tonne - format: CD - cat.no: mitek9cd

releasedate : october/ november 2002

Martin Jarl - tba 12"

Deep atmospheric four to the floor techno. Also releases on german label konvex-konkav.

Sophie Rimheden - TBA CD/DLP

Unique style of electro-glitch-pop, with sweet vocals. futuristic pop music.

Mikael Stavostrand - TBA 12"

Experimental minimal techno from mitek founder and Force Inc. artist.

v/a - TBA CD/DLP compilation of new electronic music from scandinavia from minimal tech-styles to pure glitch-tronica

VITA - TBA 12" crisp experimental minimal tech-house from mitek founder and Force Inc. artist.

- **You compose music under the alias Vita, or your own name, any news on that side of your life ? You have signed to Mille Plateaux, is**

this move very helpful and bringing more recognition than the one you had enjoyed when self-releasing your albums ?

- **Does it give you more credit being signed to another label in opposition to your self-producing ?**

hmm.. well Mille Plateaux is much much more well known than mitek of course, so it surely gives me more recognition and credit.

Discography :

mitek1cd - mikael stavöstrand – (format :CD)

mitek3cd - andreas bertling - tiny little white ones (like handful of salt) (format :CD)

mitek4cd - folie - misspass (format :CD)

mitek5cd - håkan lidbo - 06/10/60 (format :CD)

mitek6cd - claudia bonnarelli - everything happens only a certain number of times (format :CD)

mikael stavöstrand disco (excerpt)

forthcoming.

remixes of rechenzentrum .germany

remix of jack brothers comp. CD .slask .sweden

remix of tennis .CD .bip-hop .france

remix of håkan lidbo .12".mitek .sweden

tba EP .12" .mitek .sweden

track on clicks & cuts 3 .comp. mille plateaux. germany

track on soundcultures .comp. mille plateaux. germany

2002 :

gmrmxmnlr101 on Goem: Gast rmix comp .CD .mutek .canada

spann on v/a bip-hop generation v.5. bip-hop .france

format EP .klitekture .spain

track on v/a - circle0. fylkingen .sweden

track on jap. comp. japan.

remix of random inc. walking in jerusalem DLP. mille plateaux. germany

2001 :

vita . ena .Album .force inc. germany (<http://www.force-inc.com>)

reduce .Album .force inc. germany (<http://www.force-inc.com>)

vita .12" .force lab .germany(<http://www.force-inc.com>)

repl on clicks_&_cuts 2 comp. mille plateaux .germany (<http://www.force-inc.com>)

tracks on reslab comp. mitek .sweden

track on tigerbeat6 comp. tigerbeat6 k .us (<http://www.tigerbeat6.com>)

+, track on 12k comp. 12k k .us (<http://www.12k.com>)

v/a - soundart .comp. CD +book. phono suecia .sweden

2000 :
lite .CD .mitek

1999 :
signal.or.minimal .CD .cca
illuminece .CD .firework ed.
degeneraton .CD. kip

1998 :
fusion .CD .firework