



Exposé Online

Not just outside the box, but denying the existence of boxes.

Covering music from the fringes since 1993.

What's old

Exposé print issues (1993-2011)

- 1 (October 1993)
- 2 (February 1994)
- 3 (May 1994)
- 4 (August 1994)
- 5 (October 1994)
- 6 (March 1995)
- 7 (July 1995)
- 8 (November 1995)
- 9 (March 1996)
- 10 (August 1996)
- 11 (February 1997)
- 12 (May 1997)
- 13 (October 1997)
- 14 (February 1998)
- 15 (July 1998)
- 16 (January 1999)
- 17 (April 1999)
- 18 (November 1999)
- 19 (May 2000)
- 20 (October 2000)

Reviews

Halloween — Psy-Ko

(Musea FGBG 5075, 2025, CD)

by Jon Davis, Published 2025-04-28

Music fans who paid attention to progressive rock in the 90s were likely aware of the French band Halloween. We certainly covered them here at *Exposé*, first covering their third album, 1994's *Merlin*, following that with reviews of the reissues of their first two albums, *Part One* (1988) and *Laz* (1990), their live album *Silence... au Dernier Rang!* (1998), and their entry into the new millennium, *Le Festin* (2001). On that run, they established themselves as purveyors of a distinctive variety of dark symphonic progressive rock, moody and powerful, especially when fronted by the vocals of Géraldine Le Cocq, who joined on *Merlin* and was with the group intermittently from then on. It's now 2025, and *Psy-Ko* appears out of the blue — apparently Halloween struck up again in 2020, and this is their first new release since then. No doubt everyone's first question is about the personnel for the album. In the fold we have founding members Jean-Philippe Brun (violin, guitar, vocals) and Gilles Coppin (keyboards), drummer Philippe DiFaostino, who's been on board since *Laz*, Le Cocq (as previously mentioned, singing since *Merlin*), and two newcomers, Romain Trolly



What's new

These are the most recent changes made to artists, releases, and articles.

Review: **Halloween - Psy-Ko**

Published 2025-04-28

Release: **Pacha Wakay**

Munan - El Tiempo

Quiero Cantar

Updated 2025-04-27
23:49:26

Artist: **Pacha Wakay**

Munan

Updated 2025-04-27
23:46:57

Release: **O.R.k. -**

Firehose of Falsehoods

Updated 2025-04-27
16:22:40

Review: **Spirit - Live at**

Mile Square Park

Published 2025-04-27

Review: **Khu.éex' -**

Siyáadlan

Published 2025-04-26

Review: **Stephen Grew -**

Fire

Published 2025-04-25

Review: **Satomimagae -**

Taba

Published 2025-04-24

Review: **Malcolm**

Galloway - Metazoa

Published 2025-04-23

Release: **Uroboro - The**

Bass Speaks

21 (March 2001)
 22 (July 2001)
 23 (December 2001)
 24 (April 2002)
 25 (September 2002)
 26 (February 2003)
 27 (August 2003)
 28 (December 2003)
 29 (April 2004)
 30 (September 2004)
 31 (March 2005)
 32 (September 2005)
 33 (May 2006)
 34 (March 2007)
 35 (January 2008)
 36 (October 2008)
 37 (July 2009)
 38 (July 2010)
 39 (Summer 2011)

(bass) and Cédric Monjour (guitar). Fans of the group's mature sound will not be disappointed. *Psy-Ko* is very much a Halloween album, full of eerie moods and minor chords, but without any real touches of metal in their darkness. While there aren't any guest musicians, the core group fills out the sound, with plenty of overdubbed backing vocals, multiple violin parts from Brun, and of course, lots of excellent keyboard work. The eight tracks are spread across two CDs, though the total is only 72 minutes. That's a lot of music, but there are no duds in the set. A particular favorite is "Plume de Plomb," which features an especially tasty vocal arrangement. "Nostalgie" is a fifteen-minute piece that starts with ambient sound effects, then jumps into an instrumental section full of crazy rhythms and angular lines, somewhat like King Crimson with more emphasis on keyboards, and then goes into a slow, dramatic section that takes up most of the track's length, only to finish off with a lovely acoustic-guitar backed section with violin and spoken words. It is much to the band's credit that I find the vocal sections compelling even when my limited knowledge of French is exceeded. We're only a few months into 2025, but I'm confident that Halloween's *Psy-Ko* will be solidly among the year's best progressive rock releases.

Filed under: [New releases](#), [2025 releases](#)

Related artist(s): [Halloween](#)

More info

<http://halloweenprogrock.bandcamp.com/album/psy-ko>

Updated 2025-04-22 15:10:26

Release: [Lorentzen - Leave Nobody Behind](#)
Updated 2025-04-22 14:12:24

Artist: [Eivind Lorentzen](#)
Updated 2025-04-22 14:10:44

Release: [Gordon Giltrap - Starfield](#)
Updated 2025-04-22 14:06:31

Review: [Exedra - Star Zoned](#)
Published 2025-04-22

Review: [World Sanguine Report - Songs from the Harbour](#)
Published 2025-04-21

Release: [Release Music Orchestra - News](#)
Updated 2025-04-20 23:32:42

Release: [Release Music Orchestra - Beyond the Limit](#)
Updated 2025-04-20 23:30:36

Release: [Release Music Orchestra - Get the Ball](#)
Updated 2025-04-20 23:28:06

Release: [Release Music Orchestra - Garuda](#)
Updated 2025-04-20 23:25:36

Release: [Release Music Orchestra - Life](#)
Updated 2025-04-20 23:23:30



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