

# A Guided Tour of Artifacts Volume 1



# The Artifacts Collection

This was really a clearing-the-shelf sort of project. For me, there's always the thought that if I hold onto stuff too long I might never find the opportunity to let people hear it. Either I'll be too embarrassed by it later on, or I'll simply not be around anymore! So I thought this would be a good time to let these things go, as they weren't serving any purpose just sitting on my workstation, and I had plenty of other, more current things to work on.

Taking stock of the music at hand, I quickly saw that I had at least two volumes worth of material. I decided that Volume 1 would be the more experimental, electronic-based music I had recorded in the past 10 or so years, while Volume 2 would be the backlog of rock songs I had written for bands when I was much younger.

When it came time to decide what I wanted to put on Volume 1, there was certainly a lot to choose from. In the end it seemed that about 50 minutes of this stuff was plenty to absorb in one listen. I think the reasons for that are two-fold: First, I've always believed in shorter albums in general, as they are simply not as laborious to listen to. Second, this particular material was so varied and jumped around stylistically so much that it seemed to be a bit overwhelming. So I picked the best twenty bits, and that became the album proper, which left me a nice assortment of bonus tracks I could offer as an incentive to purchase the CD instead of downloads. And still, there are more that I've not released simply because I intend to take another whack at improving them sometime.

This was a fun album to put together. I decided to call it "Artifacts" because that seemed to be exactly what these things were: simply artifacts of various musical activities over a certain time period. There is no grand, unifying concept or artistic statement here! I'll save that for my other "more serious" work.

Mike Florio

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*The music presented here is primarily a compilation of creative experiments and demos recorded during 2003-2012; as well as some pieces that were intended for specific projects. I hope you enjoy listening to these artifacts of musical activity as much as I enjoyed making them.*

*For additional content:*

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- 18 Wondering
- 19 A Different Day
- 20 See Me Now

### 01 Jerry's Theme

The lyrics were inspired by an album concept a friend and I were discussing for a possible future collaboration. So, the song is really intended as a prelude to a larger work, which is why it wasn't developed fully here. The important thing was to state the theme and move on. I don't know if anything tangible will ever come of the idea, but I liked the song so I led off the album with it!

### 02 Arctic Angel

This was envisioned as a title theme to an imaginary TV show, which is why it's short and concise. I kind of like the title.

### 03 All Points Beyond

This was originally a demo written for a band that unfortunately never materialized. I liked it a lot, so I just put it out as it was. It's really just a thematic concept I had, and not a complete piece. I may or may not ever get around to working on it more.

### 04 Aftermath

This was a film-score type theme I came up with. I will admit to probably being inspired on some subconscious level by Keith Emerson's 'Inferno' main title!

### 05 The Crawl

When I got my Korg M50 synthesizer a few years ago, I was very inspired by some of the preset combinations. They were so playable right out of the box! I think I could easily do a whole album of M50-inspired tunes if I had the time. 'The Crawl' is actually the name of the combination I used for all the main sounds. All I had to do was come up with a vocal line to put on top.

### 06 Across the Milky Way

Again, inspired by playing around with another M50 combination, this one called of course, 'Across the Milky Way'.

### 07 The Spectacle

That was written as the prelude for a friend's multi-media rock show that he was performing in small theaters. The idea was to set the mood and atmosphere as people settled in and waited for the show to start. The piece utilizes pioneering electronic composer Morton Subotnick's 'Gestures' interactive software. I actually sent an mp3 to Mr. Subotnick who remarked that it was 'quite nice'!

### 08 Night Siege

Ok, maybe this was a bit overboard, but it was fun to piece together in the sequencer. I don't know if I could actually play it live without a lot of practice. Someone once remarked to me that it sounded like the band FM on steroids!

### 09 The Viking Mission

I remember renting the 'Martian Chronicles' mini-series, with music by Stanley Meyers, and that sort of inspired me to imagine my own Mars-themed sci-fi show and soundtrack. I was intrigued by Richard Hoagland's 'Monuments of Mars' research (based on NASA's 1976 Viking Mission) at the time too. It all seemed like good fodder for a fun television show.



### 10 Mind Game

That was inspired by the early John Carpenter film scores. I was trying to capture a bit of that. I imagined this as the main title for a thriller about the anti-hero who has to figure it all out despite himself. That sort of thing.

### 11 Dark Cloud

Just a short soundscape idea. Some people are really good and can stretch these things out over long periods of time, and keep them interesting.

### 12 Mirror of Light

Just an experiment utilizing a cluster chord cycle I came up with, and then constructing a melody over the top. I think it has a nice cinematic flare to it.

### 13 Morning Rise

That was written on spec for a logo break for a documentary I was hoping to score but never got the call. Yes, it's only 15 seconds long!

### 14 Morning Drive

This was my first loop-based piece. It was hard work constructing an interesting rhythm section from 1 and 2-bar phrases. All the melodic stuff and block chords on top I came up with myself.

### 15 Lost Moments

That was a cue from a film where I was asked to do a lot of new-agey type stuff.

### 16 Astro Force

That's a score to a 3-minute special effects demo made by a group of young, aspiring sci-fi filmmakers. The music by itself sounds to me like it could be for an animated show about the adventures of a group of super-hero kids in space, ie: The "Astro Force"!

### 17 Shadow Watcher

Another TV theme idea. I was going for a sort of retro detective/suspense/thriller vibe – something akin to 'Kolchak: The Nightstalker'. Would sound cool with a real band.

### 18 Wondering

That's an expanded version of another new-agey film cue. I think the original was only 30 seconds or so, but I liked the motif and had a little fun with it.

## 19 A Different Day

This was originally written as the main title to an indie film, but I re-worked it. The original version that appears on the soundtrack is much softer, and is for strings and woodwinds - all done on synths, however, so it wasn't terribly realistic.

## 20 See Me Now

This was sort of an experiment in heavy synth-pop. I originally was going to have some real players on it, and the vocal was intended only as a scratch; but then the song sat on the shelf for years and I just got used to it the way it was. The lyrics are sung from the point of view of a rather despicable character. I really don't play characters well at all, but I guess I got it to work ok.



**MIKE FLORIO**  
**ARTIFACTS**  
volume 1

additional content:

- 21 Fever Dream
- 22 Prog Me Now
- 23 Day Montage
- 24 Walk Away
- 25 The Crawl - remix (w/ Henry Veloso)
- 26 Pretending - solo version
- 27 Across the Milky Way (video)
- 28 The Crawl (video)
- 29 Pretending (video)
- 30 ELP's Tarkus (video)

*On this page are some extra tracks that didn't make it onto the album; along with a few video artifacts that you may enjoy...*

## **Additional Online Content:**

### [21 Fever Dream](#)

A cue from a film. Sort of has a childish, almost nightmarish quality to it.

### [22 Prog Me Now](#)

I did this for a few progressive rock web radio stations that were playing 'Arisen'. I would do a station id voiceover after the music stopped.

### [23 Day Montage](#)

A cue that was exactly that - a montage sequence of the events from a lazy, sunny day.

### [24 Walk Away](#)

That was actually the end credits music for the film where 'A Different Day' was the main title - which is why they share some similar chord structures. I really like the ideas, but I think it could have been done much better. I would have loved to do it with some real acoustic instruments instead of samples.

### [25 The Crawl \(remix\)](#)

This was recorded after Artifacts Vol 1 was released, but I thought it should be included with the bonus tracks anyway. This was a collaboration with musician/producer Henry Veloso, who really liked the song, and was up for doing a remix when I asked him. He overhauled the groove and added guitars, and I redid a few vocal lines. I'm real happy with how it came out.

### [26 Pretending \(solo\)](#)

Just done as a singer/songwriter presentation of that song - which is on 'Arisen' in full band form. I was thinking about playing some solo gigs and wanted to use this as a demo of sorts. I think the vocal is better here than on 'Arisen', and I also added the short two-handed intro which is not part of the album version.

### [27 Across the Milky Way \(video\)](#)

The original video-taped performance of that track that actually appears on the album. I just fixed a couple of bum notes, and added some sweetening for the album version.

### [28 The Crawl \(video\)](#)

This was lip-synched to a pre-recording. This is pretty raw with only the lead lines played live on camera. I definitely beefed this one up a bit for the album.

### [29 Pretending \(video\)](#)

Again, done as a singer/songwriter demo. The audio-only version is much richer sonically.

### [30 ELP's Tarkus \(video\)](#)

This was fun to do. I actually played along to the original ELP recording to get the timings accurate. This got thousands of plays on Youtube just weeks after it was uploaded, but after a year or so it ran its course and I took it down. If I ever get enough practice time in, I'd like to record the whole suite one day.