

# MUSICAL LITERATURE

## CLUE TO KALO'S NEW SOUND WITH NEW PROSE AND PEOPLE

Mark Mitchell once said he didn't have the talent to play a traditional instrument or the patience to be a novelist. Yet, from a young age he aspired to be a writer and always had a passion for music. It wasn't until he found his talent through a new and unexpected kind of instrument that Mitchell discovered he could compose music with his computer and write novels with his lyrics.

As the architect of Australian electronica outfit Clue to Kalo, Mitchell brings his literary voice to the forefront with the band's third album, *Lily Perdida*, due out in the U.S. early this year.

It's been three years since the release of Clue to Kalo's last album, *One Way, It's Every Way*, and in that time Mitchell has evolved from his electronica roots, penned his third album, added a new member to his band and adapted his songs for live shows.

While his earlier work focused on an electronica sound, Mitchell said he realized he could bring together his music and passion for writing with a stronger focus on his lyrical content. As he worked to hone his writing skills, his sound evolved as well. "I've started to incorporate more traditional elements," Mitchell said. Clue to Kalo tries to do something different with each record, including the newest album, but Mitchell said there are still undeniable electronica elements on *Lily Perdida*. On the new album, Mitchell uniquely merges his musical foundation with a lo-fi acoustic folk sound. Some have dubbed *Lily Perdida* as "folktronica."

After returning to Australia from a U.S. tour for *One Way, It's Every Way*, Mitchell said he went straight to work on *Lily Perdida*. Mitchell,



Courtesy Clue to Kalo

who had "given up" on finishing his PhD in English Cultural Studies, said he had a lot of ideas floating around in his head that spilled over from his studies. One that peaked his interest was the theory that, "you can never really get an accurate idea of anything once you make a map of it." With his thesis in tact, Mitchell electronically authored the story of fictional character Lily Perdida through 10 songs sung from the perspectives of people in her life instead of her own narration. Mitchell said the album, "is nominally a portrait," but more

of a literary device. "The record is mostly about them — more about the person giving the perspective on Lily than it is about Lily."

In order to give the perspective of Lily's female friends and family, Mitchell said he felt he needed a female vocalist and brought in Ellen Carey. "I thought her voice was amazing. I really admired it because it was completely different than mine. We probably tend to polarize people a little bit but that's what I like because she doesn't sound like anyone."

Carey will join two other band members who play

### CLUE TO KALO

#### WHO'S WHO

Mark Mitchell  
Ellen Carey

#### FORMED

2003 in Adelaide, Australia

#### LABEL

Mush Records

#### LATEST RELEASE

*Lily Perdida* (2009)

#### ON THE WEB

[www.myspace.com/clu-etokalo](http://www.myspace.com/clu-etokalo)

with Mitchell during live performances. "We spend quite a bit of time trying to figure out how to play live since I do the records at home by myself on my computer." Mitchell said using a computer as his instrument always appealed to him because he could act as producer and create a completed record, a finished product, and not just pieces. "I've become more proficient and now it does feel like an instrument. I have ways of approaching things that feel quite natural. It can be anything, sound like anything and do whatever you want with it. With a guitar, you have limits. I still find the idea of using a computer really exciting."

Mitchell will continue composing on his computer in the future.

"At the moment, I think I am just really excited to keep writing songs. I like this idea of working with Ellen and writing songs specifically for her voice. I am spending everyday working on new music."

— Sarah A. McCarty