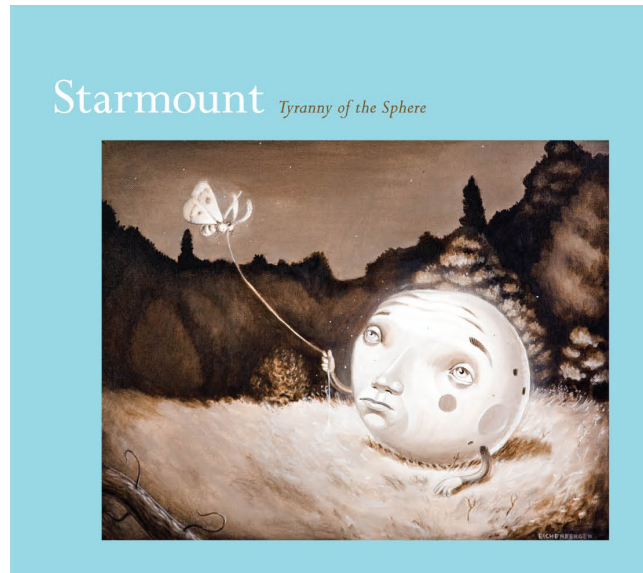


Starmount *Tyranny of the Sphere*

Named after a forgotten neighborhood in Raleigh NC, Starmount was formed in May of 2007 by veteran musician, producer, and engineer, Greg Elkins, who had long been enamored of the rich mournful voice of the pedal steel guitar but had just begun to learn to play it himself. Enlisting Dave Pitts on upright bass, Brian J. Donohoe on drums and electronic percussion and Rob Davis on synthesizers, the task of becoming and being Starmount was under way. Writing, recording and rehearsing ensued and the band's first public appearance occurred in September of the same year, a mere six months after Elkins began to play the pedal steel. More writing, more recording and many gigs have followed. All of this activity has yielded a tangible result in the form of a stunning debut album from a unique and dynamic instrumental ensemble.



SFR-004

Cover painting *Harvester of Hearts*, by David Eichenberger © 2008

Tyranny of the Sphere is the title of this extraordinary album which is to be released October 2009 on the Superfan label. Culled from three sessions at Elkins' Desolation Row Recording, Tyranny of the Sphere is an extremely well crafted portrait of four veteran musicians learning together to express themselves in new and vital ways. The emphasis is on composition, interplay, arrangement, and the nuance of sonic interaction. Often simultaneously familiar and other-worldly, meshing the experimental with the traditional, and always cinematic in scope, Starmount's compositions (it's fine to call them songs) arrive at



Photo by Lincoln Hancock © 2009

originality not so much through invention as through thoughtful re-examination. In other words, these guys operate more as enlightened sound miners with kaleidoscopic headlamps than as philosophers or style-mongers. Though Starmount can humbly float in a universe alongside the stars they admire with names like Eno, Can, Tortoise and Morricone, they sound like none of these. Starmount is comfortable being, and sounding like, Starmount. Any fan of thoughtful, evocative, instrumental music should find ample reward in listening to the ten tracks that comprise Tyranny of the Sphere.

Greg Elkins: pedal steel guitar and electronics
Dave Pitts: upright bass
Rob Davis: synthesizers
Brian J. Donohoe: acoustic and electronic percussion

starmount@superfanrecords.com
www.superfanrecords.com



PO Box 25471
Raleigh, NC 27611

919.272.8309