



Coming upon [Brian Minus](#) out of the blue, I was surprised at the organic, yet distinctly synthetic, sound coming from my speakers. While this seems like a contradiction, at first listen it becomes readily apparent just how true this statement really is.

Their first single, “Never Says A Thing,” builds upon the basics of rock like roots intertwining in the soil, then utilizes heavy synth lines and light guitars to build a structured base that Minus’ distinct voice glazes over in a style reminiscent of [Robert Smith](#) of [The Cure](#).

This band certainly intrigues, and this is compounded by the interesting yet obscure references to the music Minus made when talking to him over the phone.

Here’s a brief excerpt of the interview:

What would you say is the purpose behind the Brian Minus Band?

I wanted to do a project that really talks about the vibe of our culture right now, as far as this transition into digital things. Like the newer generation, how we live on our computers almost, and trying to balance that with life. Reflecting my experiences, and coming into this age, I think we’re on the cusp of everything going digital, and being able to get any information at any time, and trying to balance that with how things used to be as we go into this new paradigm.

How is this reflected in *Forage*?

There’s four songs on *Forage*, and each song tries to capture a little different snapshot of things. One of the main songs on there that deals with things culturally I would say is “I Am Ghost.” It refers to how, even though we’re so connected because of the internet, we can stand out so much, but still not really be any thing major. You can talk to everybody instantly. In a way it almost separates people more, even though it connects people more. That’s one aspect of it.

How do you approach your music?

Just creating organically, in general, is easier for me. The EP, even though it was recorded in Protools, I approached it more as a tape-based method. All the takes are pretty much all the way through. If I did splice anything together, I thought of it as splice tape. I wasn’t really into making everything strict to the beat, and just trying to make the music breathe dynamically.

You have a very *root-sy* sound. Is that a product of this approach?

I like to think that the sound is fresh and original. But I think I like to let what comes out come out. I let it flow. Sometimes things do sound like my influences, but when that happens I flow with it and make sure I make it my own and eventually it comes out sounding organic.

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If you’re down to check out a great new band, Brian Minus will be putting on a *free* release party for their new EP, *Forage*. It’s this Saturday at Rock Around the Clock, and the music starts at 10 PM.

Saturday, Jan. 30. Rock Around The Clock, 2329 Northwest 23rd Place, Portland, Oregon 97210. (503) 241-2609.