

ePop 029:  
Niko Niko!





**EardrumsPop** is a label where we release free digital singles of our favourite artists. In addition to the original tracks, the singles usually also include a cover-song that deserves more attention. The cover art will be made by our favourite illustrators, and we like to see the single as a split-release between the band and the illustrator.

The singles will vary in style, from acoustic folk-songs to noisy indiepop, everything in between and more, but always warm and melodic.

## Tracks:

1. Cosy Places
2. The Last Festival of Light
3. A Lifetime in the Sun
4. How I Raveiously Tipjilted the Givious on a Sunday Morning (*only via Bandcamp*)

»» *Track 1 written by Vilma Sergiunaite (lyrics) and Niko Niko!. Track 2 and 4 written by Niko Niko!. Track 3 written by The April Skies. All songs performed by Niko Niko!. Track 4 is only available from <http://eardrumspop.bandcamp.com/>*

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# Introduction to the band:

Bergen-based and Norwegian west-coast born singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Nickolai Nilsen has previously been in bands such as Soda Fountain Rag and Catastrophes, as well as his own project Princess Niko.

**Niko Niko!** is a fresh solo project with the aim to hunt for and capture a purposeful essence of the perfect pop song. Niko Niko! is essentially indie pop fused lightly with elements from folk, 60's pop, sparkling 70's guitar rock and of course the occasional cartoon-esque-overdramatic sides of the 80's.

<http://soundcloud.com/niko-niko-2>



# The Cover Art Designer: Nicola Colton

## »» Nicola, can you give us a short presentation of yourself and your art?

I am a freelance illustrator based in Dublin. Animals are among my favourite subject matter to draw/paint and I also like to create wonderful creatures that are part animal and human. The type of creatures you may encounter in a fairytale/folktale.

## »» What are you working on right now?

I just finished creating series of paintings on wood for a group exhibition based on the theme of Winter. I'm also working on some iPad/iPhone designs and limited edition artwork for a wonderful company called CarveOn who engrave the illustrations onto wood to make beautiful products.

## »» What are your favourite tools?

Acrylic paint is my absolute favourite medium, it allows you a lot of freedom as if you make a mistake you can paint over it! I love to use paint markers too as they are great for adding detail. I use brush tip pens a lot as well when drawing as you can vary the thickness of line and they add a lot of character to an illustration.

## »» How do you begin/conceptualise a project?

Most of my work begins as rough sketches and they often evolve and change as I begin to work on them in colour. I keep a sketchbook with me as ideas can be as fleeting as a dream upon waking and it's important to catch them and get them down on something tangible like paper before they disappear!

Read the rest of the interview here: [www.eardrumspop.com/2012/11/22/illustrator-interview-nicola-colton/](http://www.eardrumspop.com/2012/11/22/illustrator-interview-nicola-colton/)

[www.nicolacolton.com](http://www.nicolacolton.com)

[www.etsy.com/shop/CarnivalFox](http://www.etsy.com/shop/CarnivalFox)

[www.carveon.com/collections/nicola-colton](http://www.carveon.com/collections/nicola-colton)



# Niko Niko!— a photo interview:

The innovative website [A Negative Narrative](http://AnegativeNarrative.com) has made photo-interviews with our single-artists. Visit [www.anegativenarrative.com](http://www.anegativenarrative.com) and see more bands' photographic answers to their interview questions.

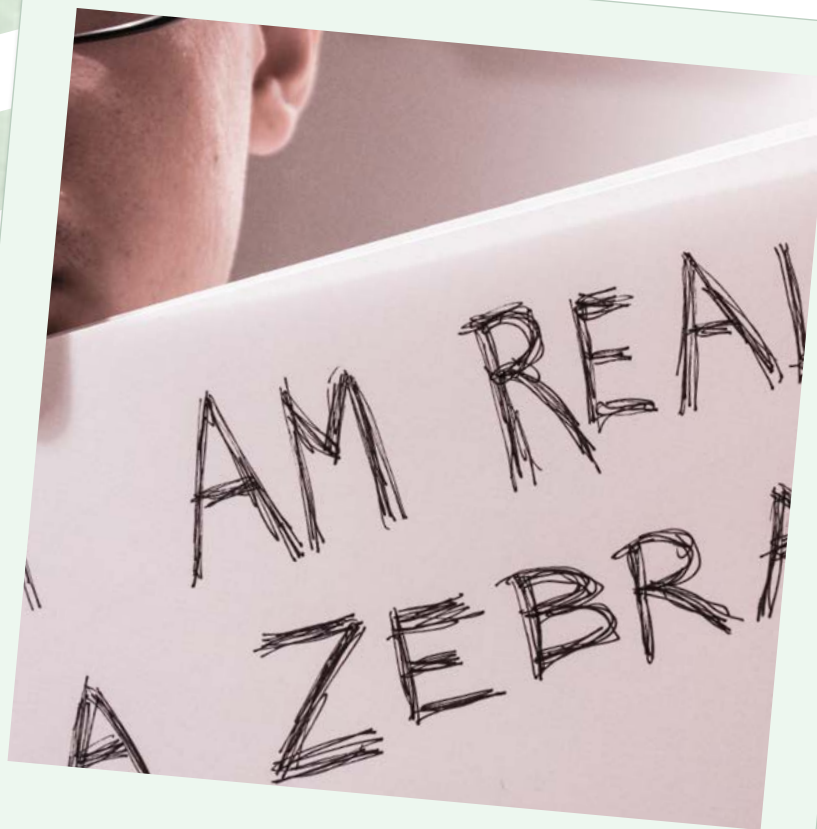


- 1) Take a photo of an ear, but make it real strange, artistic or unrecognisable.

*Photo interview with the band*



- 2) What's the most precious thing you'd smash up or break just for the purpose of taking a photo of it all broken and smashed for this interview?

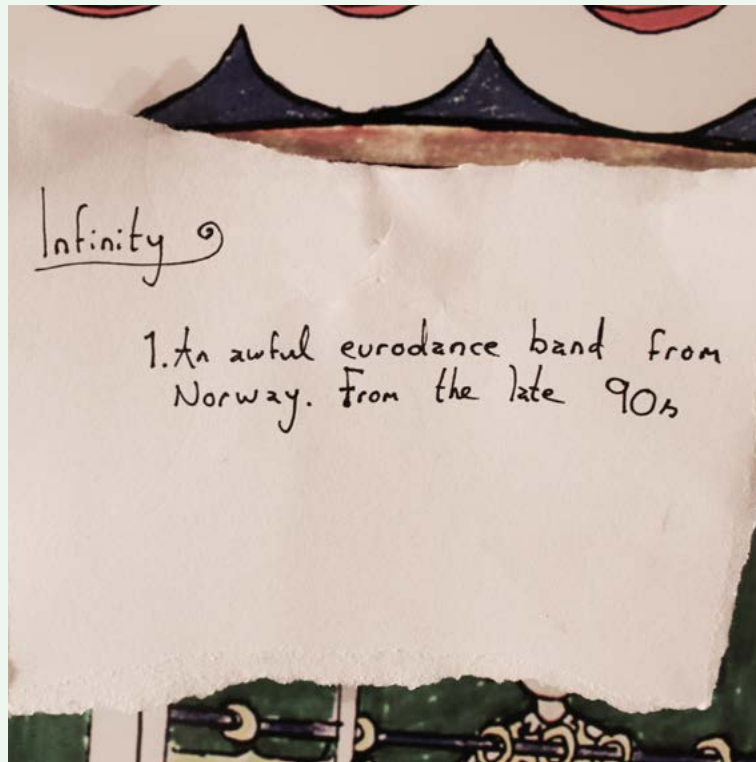


3) Tell us a secret.



4) What does life mean to you?





5) Define infinity.



6) How about a really colourful photograph?



7) Photograph someone who isn't expecting it.



8) What would your music look like if it was visible to the human eye?





9) What makes you really, really, stupidly happy?



10) Photograph something illegal or naked.

**The cover song:** We have encouraged the single-bands to make a cover version of a song they think deserve more attention. Niko Niko! has chosen to cover “A Lifetime in the Sun”, originally performed by The April Skies.

Listen to the original here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltbWrHFCBCU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltbWrHFCBCU)

More from The April Skies: [www.nrk.no/urort/Artist/TheAprilSkies/default.aspx](http://www.nrk.no/urort/Artist/TheAprilSkies/default.aspx)

### **The April Skies (In Niko Niko!’s own words)**

I choose to cover The April Skies because I don’t really know any other band that could possibly deserve more recognition and attention than this band.

I started listening to them in 2003, and fell for them right away. The songs held such an unbelievably high standard, in terms of having pop-hooks all throughout a song, supersmart and precise lyrics and smart classic arrangement. A singer with a wonderful voice who could go from a most sincere soft angel voice in one song to a strong determined rock voice in another song - the specter of his expressions of singing was astounding.



A guitarist who masterfully and delicately arranged the guitar parts and instrumental parts for the songs, and who could match the best guitar players and easily outdo them in terms of having good taste, a popheart and never play a note more than necessary to fit a song.

Today, I cannot even fathom how my music would sound like without the inspiration from this band. It is undeniable that this is one of the bands that shaped me and my music the most in my later days, especially when it comes to reaching and stretching the best you can to find what you’re looking for.



# About EardrumsPop, the label:

EardrumsPop is a digital music- and art-label. We love warm and melodic music of all kinds, we believe in beautiful things you can see and hear, and we believe in working together, helping each other and getting good music and good art out to the public.

We HOPE that instead of supporting us, you can visit the websites of the bands you like, buy their releases, go to their concerts or just spread the word about these wonderful bands. All our releases are made in close collaboration with the artists and illustrators.

[www.eardrumspop.com](http://www.eardrumspop.com)

## Contributors to the project:

- »» The **project** is run and managed by the EardrumsPop-team, Stefan, Silja, Tim and Knut. Visit us at [www.eardrumspop.com](http://www.eardrumspop.com).
- »» The **booklet-template** is designed by Julia Pax. Visit Julia at [www.visuellezeiten.de](http://www.visuellezeiten.de). You can also read our interview with her at [www.eardrumspop.com/about-2/our-illustrators/julia-pax](http://www.eardrumspop.com/about-2/our-illustrators/julia-pax).
- »» The **booklet** is put together in Adobe InDesign by Silja Haddal Mork ([www.behance.net/Siljahm](http://www.behance.net/Siljahm)).
- »» The **text** in the booklet is put together by the EardrumsPop team.
- »» The **photo-interviews** are managed by the website A Negative Narrative [www.anegativenarrative.com](http://www.anegativenarrative.com).

If you want to participate in any way, either with music, art or help us with the project, please contact us at [team@eardrumsespop.com](mailto:team@eardrumsespop.com).

You can also join our Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/eardrumspop](http://www.facebook.com/eardrumspop).

# Next singles in this series:

» ePop030: Northern Spies

» ePop031: Jacob Borshard & Laura K

If you enjoyed the single, please tell your friends about it! Write about it in your blog, on Facebook, Twitter, Last.fm etc. Play it on your radio show, your podcast or as loud as you can on your stereo with your windows open. Spread the word about the single and help us let lots of people hear it!

You can help us develop the label, pay some bills for us or buy us a beer, by donating a small sum via our PayPal ([www.eardrumspop.com/donate/](http://www.eardrumspop.com/donate/)).

**Thank you!**