

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEND

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June 22nd, 2023

Our Kickstarter is Fully Funded!

Catalog of Antarctic Animal Vocalizations is coming!

Ferndale, MI – MEND, Joseph Dugan is thrilled to announce the successful funding of our Kickstarter campaign for MEND, a catalog of Antarctic animal vocalizations and their translations into musical language. The campaign reached its funding goal on May 15th after a little over two weeks from its start date. The project has been almost entirely funded by locals from the Metro Detroit Area, demonstrating the overwhelming local support and enthusiasm.

MEND is an incredible project that is both musical, scientific and imaginative. With the help of our Kickstarter community, we have raised \$10,618 in funding. The project is also sponsored by [Alpine North](#), [Feelgrounds](#), [Ambient](#) and [Sweet Bloom Coffee Roasters](#).

The project started when Joseph Dugan, a saxophonist and composer was trying to connect back to the music of his Taíno ancestors. He discovered that although there were writings about their music it was extremely difficult to find any of their actual music due to the effects of colonization as well as the current lack of recognition of the existence of Taínos by government agencies.

Eventually he stopped trying to find these direct traditions and started to investigate the origins of music and decided that if he couldn't learn their music, maybe he could learn to listen like them. This led him to all types of well known theories on the origins of music but what stuck with him the most was the influence of the natural world and human kinds' urge to mimic the beauty that is all around them. He decided he wanted to see if he could reverse engineer a "traditional style music" based on the vocalizations of animals. With Antarctica being the only place in the world without indigenous people, he said "it seemed like a natural fit".

From there he started studying the vocalizations of Antarctic animals but wanted more data and at times higher quality audio. This led him to create a small team to help him to plan and fund an expedition to the Falkland Islands (Las Islas Malvinas) where 54 of the 74 species of interest to his catalog also live. He is now talking to ornithologists and scientists on the types of field notes to take, so that this catalog can serve both musical and scientific purposes.

Joseph and the team would like to express their deepest appreciation and gratitude to all our Kickstarter backers, sponsors, friends, and family who have and continue to support them. They have been overwhelmed to see how their project has moved and inspired the community.

For more information about MEND, please visit our Kickstarter campaign page:
<http://kck.st/3Nk7ddC>

Note to editors: For media inquiries or interview requests, please contact:

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