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## [Nic Nassuet \(Interview\)](#)

Nic Nassuet is a singer / songwriter that offers something truly unique. His music is as dark, hauntingly beautiful and minimal as artists the likes of Elliott Smith, Jeff Buckley or Nick Drake. Nonetheless, there is a more direct feel to his sound; a grit that echoes genres such as horror punk and garage.

His gothic aesthetics and nocturnal atmospheres allow Nic to explore with his sound and extend far beyond the vocals / guitar format that is the staple of the singer / songwriter genre.

songs like “Immured” showcase the essentialist core of Nic’s songs, but this very core is enhanced and embellished by stunning string sections and lush atmospheric sounds. We had a chat with Nic, who gave us more insights on his song-writing process...find out more and read on!



**I love how you manage to render your tracks so personal and organic.**

**Does the music come first, or do you focus on the lyrics the most?**

The music usually comes first. Often in a dream, or as a burst of thought in the middle of some daily activity. When that occurs I rush to hum the melody I hear into my phone. When I listen to the melody a word usually comes to mind. I use that word as the title, and plant it as a seed in my mind. The lyrics to the song blossom organically from there. I never know ahead of time what the song will sound like, or what the lyrics will be about.

**Do you perform live? If so, do you feel more comfortable on a stage or within the walls of the recording studio?**

We perform live pretty frequently. I love the energy of a good live performance when the audience is enthusiastic. It also gives me the opportunity to meet new people with whom I share an interest; music, and it allows me to catch up with old friends that I may not have been able to see in a while.

I find the studio very intimidating. Small audiences intimidate me terribly, and the studio is a very small audience. I hate the sound of my own voice, and I become hyper-critical of every nuance of every song, to a point where I simply can't function. In a venue with several hundred people I feel as if I can get lost in the crowd, even if I am center stage, and I think that helps me relax and get into the performance.

In all sincerity though, I don't really feel comfortable anywhere. I am afraid of people for the most part, which may seem like a strange thing to hear from someone whose life has been spent on stage. Well attended live shows decrease my sense of social anxiety slightly since there is the "lost in the crowd" sensation, and we all automatically have a common bond through our musical tastes.

**If you could only pick one song to make a "first impression" on a new listener, which song would you pick and why?**

That's a difficult question. I really enjoy "Black Dress", but most people seem to really like "Immured". For the sake of the listener, I would probably play "Immured" since it is a very engaging song. The female vocalist who performs that duet with me has an enchanting voice, and it is really highlighted on "Immured".

However, if someone wanted to get an impression of me and how I operate, I would choose to play the song "The Nothing", which will be released in either December 2014, or January 2015.

**What does it take to be “innovative” in music?**

Answer: I have no idea. I have no concept of context in regard to how I relate to the world around me and others' perceptions of me. Therefore, I do not know if I am innovative, nor do I know that I could identify innovation if confronted with it.

Some people have called our music “Innovative”, but all that I do is listen to the sounds and voices that drift through me and blend them with instruments that I find appealing. For instance, I wanted the sound of a mandolin, so I bought one. A song came out of the instrument when I picked it up, and people really like that song. I still don't know the first thing about mandolins though. I don't even know the names of the strings, but people like the song.

I wouldn't really call our blend of gothic, folk, punk, blues, rock, and celtic music “innovative”, since to me innovation implies thoughtful construction and intention, and I am neither thoughtfully constructive, nor intentional in my compositions. Our music is merely a combination of sounds and words that find their way through me. It isn't as if I invent them, or construct them. They exist on their own either deep beneath my conscious awareness, or somewhere outside of me in the ether, and then find their way to me. I can't even really take any credit for it, so I can't claim any right to the concept of “Innovation”.

**Any upcoming release or tour your way?**

Yes. We have a very big show coming up on December 11th at Hollywood's famous “Boardner's”. It is the last date of our local tour that started at the House of Blues on Sunset Strip in September, and it is going to be a blast. If you haven't had the opportunity to catch us live yet, this may be your last, and best, chance to experience our live show in Los Angeles. Our CD will be released on the Winter Solstice of 2014, and we have been approached about the possibility of an East Coast tour in 2015.

**Anywhere online where curious fans can listen to your music and find out more about you?**

We are everywhere! iTunes, spotify, reverbnation, soundcloud, rdio, facebook, twitter, youtube, pandora, and at our home on the web: [www.nicnassuet.com](http://www.nicnassuet.com).

We are most active on facebook and reverbnation, so if you want to engage with us, that's your best bet. If you've ever been to a show you should check the website since I take pictures of most of the people who attend and post them on my site for posterity.

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