



Merryweather Makepeace

Percussion

Merryweather Makepeace could play percussion before he fly.

Raised in a Puffin commune on the Outer Hebrides, his childhood was spent attending drum circles and accompanying yoga sessions on his Djembe.

But one Winter Solstice while meditating at Stonehenge, he had a vision that would alter the course of his musical career and his life. "While I was in an altered state, an ancient Druid came to me", Makepeace recalls, "and said to me, 'Find the bear under the Southern Cross.' Naturally I assumed he was referring to one of the Ursa constellations, but I couldn't figure out what he meant for me to do". Though confused by the old man's direction, he felt that it was always best to do what a Druid tells you and set off for Australia to get a first-hand look at the Southern Cross.

Upon arriving in Perth, he checked in to the Travel Bug Hotel where that very first evening he witnessed Angus Mack furiously playing rage-filled improvisational jazz on saxophone. "His music was so negative and full of anger", Merryweather explains, "I knew right away that it was my destiny to become the Yang to this bear's Yin."

Without invitation, Merryweather grabbed his bongos and joined the gruff-natured horn player on-stage, as he continued to do every evening afterwards. Despite Mack's wrathful protests, Makepeace became one half of the duo he would later call **Puffin the Bear**. "Someone needs to tell that idiotic bag of feathers that the name was **Bearly Puffin**", corrects Mack.

Their musical style was "extremely odd and disconcerting", and certainly less than successful, but as bad a musical team as they made, they were far worse together when participating in their favorite pastime Geocaching. The two were a caching team completely at odds with one another.

Merryweather preferred themed caches, solving puzzles, and clever hides, always opting to find one cache in a day, and spending hours afterwards discussing how the cache made him feel emotionally. Angus, on the other hand, merely wanted to grab as many caches as possible in a given outing to increase his statistics and preferred not speaking at all to what he called his "loony-bird dum-dum of a partner".

Increasingly frustrated with the situation and unable to "shake the Puffin", Angus secretly attempted to join **The Travel Bugs** Geocaching rock band. However, realizing that hiring Makepeace was the only way to offset the negative impact that Mack, who had a legendary history of breaking up even the best of bands, brought to the table, the **Bugs** brought both musicians on board.

The infinitely patient Merryweather eagerly followed what he deemed to be his musical soul-mate. "I knew that deep down inside, Angus was running from his issues of dealing with emotions and that as a true friend, I had to stick by his side", Makepeace says, " I have a calming influence on him spiritually ...well, that may actually be because I secretly spike everything he eats with massive amounts of eucalyptus."

The Travel Bugs debut album "*Found It!*" is available online, and more information about the band's activities can be found at www.thegeocachers.com.

The
Travel Bugs