

Notes for Podcast 9 & Strangeness and Charm, 1999

Part one

Mike, Chris and Pete had all been writing songs, and the idea to work towards a new album of original music was born. Recording was in the attic of Mike's house, and in 1998 a dormer was built which became the control room. The sale of the re-releases funded the buying of new equipment and sound quality was enhanced by using large cloth-covered screens, which could be made into booths.

Although Mike, Chris and Pete were the 'core', writing music, sharing ideas and working on production, other musicians such as Steve Channing continued to contribute. The next generation was represented by Chris's son Ben on sax and Pete's son Rob on keyboards.

As with the early vinyl releases of A-Austr and Astral Navigations, considerable thought went into the presentation, and it was decided to include a poster. A photoshoot which took most of the day was set up with Mike, Chris and Pete wearing a variety of costumes including wigs and hats, and a whole variety of strange props including a kayak providing a backdrop. Other family and friends were invited to take part. Mike's brother, Kevin Young, who was a professional photographer was responsible for the photography.

It was released as a special collectors' edition of 199 CDs in 1996 and re-released in 2006 with a booklet replacing the poster that was included in the first edition.

More information: <https://holyground.co.uk/strangeness.html>



Recording in the attic using an Atari computer and Midi.



Two of the photographs taken by Kevin Young which were made into a collage for the poster that accompanied the special issue of '& Strangeness and Charm' CD