



14 Pews

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THE BAYOU CITY MUSIC AND FILM FESTIVAL

Honors the **THEREMIN**

HOUSTON, TX (October 25, 2014) – the best little art house in Texas, 14 Pews, continues its biggest season yet with The Bayou City Music and Film Festival (December 4th – 7th), which honors the unique instrument the THEREMIN. We are flying in some of the World's top theremin players to Houston, Texas. All events are \$15 each. The theremin is the forerunner instrument in electronic music invented by Leon Theremin (1896-1993), who is a person whose life had a lot more to offer than that. He was called "the Soviet Edison," and was honored by Lenin before he went to work in the United States, where he developed the first electronic security system in the world for Sing-Sing Prison in upstate New York. He also was a pioneer in interracial relations, braving the strong disapproval of his peers to marry a black ballerina. He was kidnapped from the U.S. in 1938 on the orders of the vengeful and ever-paranoid Stalin, brought back to the U.S.S.R., charged with treason, and was sentenced to a gulag (forced-labor camp).



December 4, 2014 @ 6:30PM
Opening Night (which includes movie, a live concert and free beer is \$15), we will begin with the award-winning documentary, **Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey** and end with an amazing performance by theremin virtuoso, **Thomas Grillo**.

Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey is proof that documentary films have a quality that fiction can envy but never really capture. No novelist could have gotten away with such the story of the theremin and it's creator - especially not the parts in the Soviet Union, where Theremin was

essentially a prisoner of the KGB, working on electronic spy bugs, and was awarded the Stalin Medal in one year while being exiled in another. Watching "Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey" is a curious experience. You begin with interest, and then you pass through the stages of curiosity, fascination and disbelief, until in the last 20 minutes, you arrive at a state of dumbfounded wonder. It is the kind of movie that requires a musical score only the Theremin possibly could supply.



Our Opening Night Performer **THOMAS GRILLO**: Grillo always had a passion for music and started playing the violin at age 8 and the flute at 12. In the late 70s, Grillo performed with the Biloxi Opera Theater until the early 80s. He is a self-taught thereminist who enjoys playing the theremin in a classical style, but also enjoys other genres.

December 5, 2014 @ 7PM

CLARA ROCKMORE – THE WORLD'S GREATEST THEREMIN VIRTUOSA



Friday Evening includes the documentary, a live concert and free beer for \$15. The documentary is a compilation of tapes from an intimate dinner at her apartment in the Carnegie Building where she performs some of her most famous pieces. Of note, Bob Moog, inventor of the synthesizer, which she called the second 'space age' musical instrument (the Theremin being the first),

her son and a few others are present. A little more about Clara Rockmore: she was a musician who was trained as a violinist but became famous principally as a soloist on the theremin, an early electronic instrument, died in 1998 at her Manhattan apartment. She was 88. Steve Martin, the director of the theremin film, said, "Clara is to the theremin what Andres Segovia and Jimi Hendrix combined are to the guitar."

December 5, 2014 @ 8PM **THEREMIN NOIR: AN EVENING WITH ROB SCHWIMMER.**



ROB SCHWIMMER is a composer-pianist/ keyboardist, thereminist, vocalist and Continuum player who has performed and recorded throughout the world.

Musically, keyboardist-multi-instrumentalist Rob Schwimmer has always had a mischievous sense of humor, but he doesn't play things for laughs on Theremin Noir. No, this is darkly evocative modern chamber music, with a healthy dollop of improvisation, and exceptional sonics to boot.

Schwimmer employs the **Moog Etherwave Theremin** and recognizes the lyric qualities this under-appreciated antecedent to the modern synthesizer can bring to acoustic

settings... which is what makes Theremin Noir so unique in the recorded annals of the theremin. So if you're on the prowl for sound effects (which is what most people generally associate with the theremin --when they think of it as all) go dig out your Raymond Scott CDs, because Schwimmer's repertoire is rife with post-modern instrumental settings, including several fascinating interpretations of thematic highlights culled from the oeuvre of film composer **Bernard Hermann**, who created an astonishing musical-psychological subtext for director Alfred Hitchcock's greatest films (and who himself employed a theremin to excellent effect in his score to Robert Wise's 1951 sci-fi classic, *The Day The Earth Stood Still*).

December 6, 2014 @ 5:30PM - **A PAGE OF MADNESS**

Join us for a one time only **Benshi** experience to the cult silent Japanese film **PAGE OF MADNESS** a LIVE SOUNDTRACK performance by, Dok Gregory (theremin), Henry Kaiser (electric guitar, benshi) & Damon Smith (double bass) (The cost for A PAGE OF MADNESS and free beer is \$15)



A Page of Madness (狂言曲言 Kurutta Ippēji or Kurutta Ichipeiji²) is a silent film by Japanese film director Teinosuke Kinugasa, made in 1926. It was lost for forty-five years until being rediscovered by Kinugasa in his storehouse in 1971. The film is the product of an avant-garde group of artists in Japan known as the Shinkankaku-ha (or School of New Perceptions) who tried to overcome naturalistic representation.

Yasunari Kawabata, who would win the Noble Prize for Literature in 1968 was credited on the film with the original story. He is often cited as the film's screenwriter, and a version of the scenario is printed in his complete works, but the scenario is now considered a collaboration between Kawabata, Kinugasa, Banko Sawada,

and Minoru Inuzuka.

The film takes place in an asylum. Although cut together in an ever maddening maelstrom, the film loosely tells the story of the janitor of the asylum. His wife is one of the patients.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE MUSICIANS:



HENRY KAISER is widely recognized as one of the most creative and innovative guitarists, improvisers, and producers in the fields of rock, jazz, world, and contemporary experimental musics. The California-based musician is one of the most extensively recorded as well, having appeared on more than 250 different albums and contributed to countless television and film soundtracks. A restless collaborator who constantly seeks

the most diverse and personally challenging contexts for his music, Mr. Kaiser

not only produces and contributes to a staggering number of recorded projects, he performs frequently throughout the USA, Canada, Europe and Japan, with several regular groupings as well as solo guitar concerts and concerts of freely improvised music with a host of diverse instrumentalists.



DOK GREGORY has been composing, performing and recording experimental electronic music since 1983. He has toured and performed in festivals throughout the United States, Europe, Russia and South America. Dok's audio-visual works have been featured in programs at the Forum Des Images in Paris, Basel Art Fair in Switzerland, The Kitchen and Lincoln Center in NYC,

to name but a few. In 2007 he began work on the ISRS system (a shortwave radio synthesizer) and continues to research, development and deployment the technology. Dok has also toured and collaborated extensively as a member of Silence Corporation, Psychic TV, Trance Pop Loops and the Ransom Corps



DAMON SMITH studied double bass with Lisle Ellis and had lessons with Bertram Turetzky, Joëlle Leandré, John Lindberg, Mark Dresser and others. He has also done considerable research of the 'sonic palette' of the double bass. This has resulted in a personal, flexible

improvisational language based in the American jazz avant garde movement and European non-idiomatic free improvisation. He is also very influenced by visual art, film and dance. Work with director Werner Herzog (soundtracks for "Grizzly Man" & "Encounters at the end of the World" and an early performance with the Merce Cunningham dance company reflect this.

December 6, 2014 @ 7PM - **AN EVENING WITH ARMEN RA**



Armen Ra -- Theremin virtuoso and star of the documentary **When My Sorrow Died: The Legend of Armen Ra and the Theremin** comes to Houston for the very first time! Now is your chance to experience the magic that is Armen, his life and his music. We will first screen the award-winning documentary and then afterwards Armen will perform live.

Armen Ra is a spellbinding character off stage and on. Rivaling Clara Rockmore with style & attitude and as original and uncompromising as Klaus Nomi, "When My Sorrow Died" takes an intimate look at the life of the Iranian-born Armenian, turned concert performer, by way of the New York club scene. It's a feast for the eyes, visually lush with a rich palette of colors, as well as the ears, with footage from a number of Ra's concert

performances. (To see Armen's documentary, performance and free beer is \$15.)

December 7, 2014 @ 6:30PM **THEREMIN WIZARDRY**

Randy George is one of a small handful of individuals that is devoted to advancing the technical potential of theremin performance. After his performance there will be a 30-minute theremin lesson. Over the past eight years Randy George has dedicated his time and energy towards dismantling the many myths surrounding the instrument and crafting a highly efficient technical playing method. The result of these efforts grant him the uncanny ability to dance through a new expansive musical playground for the theremin that has never before existed.



Since 2008, Randy George has performed solo and with ensembles across the United States and in Europe. He is best known for his contributions to the escalating world wide awareness of the theremin over the internet. His video creations featuring the theremin in a variety of musical contexts have garnered viewership exceeding 20 million

people since 2006. Randy's technical knowledge of theremin playing is augmented by his specialization in software development for interactivity between theremin and synthesizers. The combination of talents are put on sonic display in his precision performances that sound far from the theremin sound stereotypes that have been circulating for the past century.

Randy's performance features a combination of familiar classics , reworked standards and original technology driven electronic works. The genre spectrum is as wide as it can get, making for a fun roller coaster of a listening experience, often spontaneous, occasionally improvisatory, and always without a safety net. (To see Randy George perform, have a 30 minute **theremin lesson**, and free beer is \$15.)

December 7, 2014 @ 8PM

SOUNDS OF ETHER – DORIT CHRYSLER IN CONCERT

Chrysler has been dubbed a hybrid Björk-Faithfull entity, a superior wizard of the Theremin. An Austrian-born, New York-based composer and musician, she is mostly known for her use of the instrument you don't actually touch, and her nico-esque vocal style. (To see Dorit Chrysler Perform, the duet with Arman Ra and free beer is \$15.)



"A theremin is a cool contemporary instrument. It's not only retro and classical; it's cool and now." Dorit Chrysler in [Wall Street Journal](#). Her music has been described by Ann Magnuson (Paper Magazin): "Imagine if Marianne Faithfull and Nikola Tesla had a love child, with Jane Birkin as the nanny and Bjork as the wayward Girl Scout Leader!" Born in Graz and residing in New York, she cofounded the New York Theremin Society and started Kid Cool Theremin School (America's first Theremin School for Kids) and is one of the few Theremin Virtuosos world wide. Her Solo work ranges from electronic Pop to Film Scores (Wall Street

Journal: "a Futuristic Lotte Lenya" - Kaltblut Magazine: Dorit's "Haunting Soundscapes"). Lars van Trier used her compositions, and she collaborated with diverse Acts such as Elliot Sharp, Gibby Haynes (Butthole Surfers), Cluster, Chicks on Speed, Baby Dee, Faust, Marilyn Manson und Lee Hazelwood. Her last record "Avalanche" was produced by Anders Trentemoeller and released on his Label InMyRoom. She has toured with him & joined him at Roskilde '14 in the Orange Stage Arena. Dorit composed music for the 2013 Venice Biennale and has recently been commissioned a soundtrack for the New York MoMA - this year she played Moogfest, MoMA, the Modern Arts Museum in Seoul, Nanterre Amandiers in Paris, Karlskirche Vienna, Charlottetown Kunsthalle in Copenhagen etc. She has performed her original Theremin compositions in Australia, Brazil, Europe, Russia, Japan, South Korea and the Americas.

December 7, 2014 @ 9PM

THEREMIN DUET

Join us for the closing performance of Armen Ra and Dorit Chrysler as they join forces to perform an amazing theremin duet BARCAROLLE!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: KPFT, WHOLE FOODS KIRBY, SAINT ARNOLDS, & HOUSTON DAIRYMAIDS.

warmest regards,

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