Gridfest: A Monome music festival in Santa Fe, NM

May 6 - 8, 2011
www.gridfestival.com

In the spirit of collaboration, as it is exemplified by artistic endeavor, the monome community is once again organizing a large scale event showcasing the broad spectrum of talent of monome users. Artists from around North America will be attending and performing in a series of concerts and workshops to be held at Corazon and Santa Fe Complex. Funding for the festival is also community based: a Kickstarter Project has been created, seeking assistance in offsetting the cost of airfare, accommodations, venue rentals and promotions.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, May 6: Edison (San Francisco), Making the Noise (Boston), and Portable Sunsets (NYC) bring in the beats with live sets of original electronic music at Corazon. Darkseeker (Edmonton) will start off the night with a DJ set of mellow beats and Cigarette Operahouse (Toronto) will close with a late night DJ set of electro dance. 8pm, @ Corazon, 401 S Guadalupe, 505-983-4559. $5 before 10pm, $7 after.

Saturday, May 7: Learn the basics of getting started with a monome at the Santa Fe Complex. Afterwards, presenters will discuss various techniques of monome integration with the music software, Ableton Live. Subsequently, several monome artists will give short presentations on their setups and allow for hands on interaction with the devices. Performances follow by The Sweaty Caps (Los Angeles), Lokey/noiseflowr (Calgary), Watson (Santa Fe), Anenon (Los Angeles), TheAlphaNerd (Toronto), Cigarette Operahouse (Toronto), % (NYC), Altitude Sickness (Los Angeles). Workshops 1 - 6pm, Performances 8pm-130am, @ The Santa Fe Complex, 632 Agua Fria St, 505-216-7562. Workshops: $10, Performances: $10. All day, $15.

Sunday, May 8: Learn to build a monome like device yourself at Santa Fe Complex. Denver based Mike Stacey (Circle Six) will be leading a four hour workshop where you will learn how to create an arduinome (monome clone). All parts will be supplied, including custom enclosures for the devices and participants will leave with a fully functional grid controller. 2 - 6pm, Santa Fe Complex. $300.

SCHEDULE

Friday @ Corazon

9-10 Darkseeker (DJ Set, Deep and dark to chill and sexy)
10-11 Edison (moody, neckbreak, steak juice, bangers)
11-12 Making the Noise (lush, crunchy, melodic, pterodactyl)
12-1 Portable Sunsets (woozy dirty warm sunshine dance)
1am-140 Cigarette Opérahouse (DJ Set, electro mash-ups)

Saturday @ Santa Fe Compex
1:00 - 2:00 Workshop 1: Monome from Scratch. How to set up and begin using a monome.
2:30 - 3:30 Workshop 2: Abelton tips and tricks; monome integration with Ableton.
4:00 - 6:00 Discussion of setups; hands on
Break 6pm - 8pm
Performances
      8-830 The Sweaty Caps (drone noise magic)
      830-9 Lokey/noiseflowr (textured, distorted, scrunchey, downtempo)
      9-930 Watson (ambient, atmospheric)
      930-1030 Anenon (driving and emotional ethereal audio imagery)

      11-1130 TheAlphaNerd (downtempo, glitch-hop)
      1130-1200 Cigarette Operahouse (upbeat electronic)
      12-1230 % (textural, organic, triangulated)
      1230-130 Altitude Sickness (multi-dimensional mash-ups)

Sunday @ Santa Fe Complex
2:00-6:00 Build Workshop. Build your own arduinome (monome clone) with Mike Stacey
from Denver, Co. All participants will leave the build workshop with a fully functional device
made with thier own hands. Tools, enclosures and faceplates will be provided.

About the Monome
Musician Brian Crabtree created the first Monome prototype device in 2001. Crabtree
conceived of a device that would use an open grid of buttons in order to allow for greater
diversity of functionality over differing musical software applications. Many fellow musicians
requested such devices from Crabtree after becoming familiar with the initial device. Amidst
a tidal wave of creative personalities, the Monome grew in popularity. From the lucid and
exquisitely detailed synth work of friend, Daedelus, to his own minimal atmospheres, the
public was soon glimpsed awareness of a rising artistic phenomenon. Crabtree, together
with his business partner and wife, Kelli Cain, created an initial run of multiple devices
in 2006 as a convenient way to meet the requests of musicians wanting to explore the
monome for themselves. The company arose organically, over time, after demand for the
device increased.

The monome itself has no hard-wired functionality; interaction between the keys and lights
is determined by the application (such as Max/MSP) running on the computer. Its open-
source nature allows one to program applications to utilize the controller in any way one
wishes. In this manner, the monome community continues to redefine and expand its use.
While the monome may primarily be used as a musical device, it is used in a wide variety
of environments such as video and lighting, scientific reasearch, and art installation. In

addition, monome makes available the resoures to enable a user to build one themselves, and creatively source a unique enclosure for the device. Thus, monome pulls from a wide audience of musicians, artists, programmers, makers and hackers.

Today, thousands of musicians across the globe utilize the monome to realize their creative dreams. As a result, a wide variety of music and art has risen where free-formed thoughts and ideas, once too frustrated by issues of tactile control, were finally able to manifest. The community of artists who formed around the device do not identify with the device alone, but also around a shared-interest in all things creative and well-designed. A growing sense of responsibility to their art pervades the community and it is in this spirit that The Monome Community Tour provides an opportunity for performers and audiences alike to experience the self-empowerment and freedom of the Monome.

Artist Bios

%
Pronounced "owner/operator," % builds tunes through an emergent process of experimentation, discovery, and adaptation. The project was initiated and is currently maintained by Michael Felix of Brooklyn, New York.

Altitude Sickness
Altitude Sickness started making sample-based music in 2006. Shortly thereafter he began a residency at WPRB 103.3 FM, where his weekly show emphasized an eclectic mix of bicoastal beats. In 2007, he assembled his first monome tupperware and began performing live, chopping and looping on-the-fly. After joining the Princeton Laptop Orchestra (PLOrk) in 2008, Altitude Sickness began to write music-making software. He is the creator of SmackTop - a free, open-source, software package for Mac laptops which translates the physical motion of the machine into MIDI and audio data. Altitude Sickness has lugged his sonic tupperware across the US, opening for the likes of Nosaj Thing, Daedelus, Hudson Mohawke, Deakin, Mike Slott, Lucky Dragons, Edison and makingthenoise. He currently resides in California.

Anenon
Anenon is Brian Allen Simon, a 27-year old composer and multi-instrumentalist whose passions reside in the ever-changing intersection of Heart and Ability in the fields of music and sound. Beyond a strong focus on his own artistic endeavors, Simon is also engaged in encouraging the works of other talented artists as the founder and CEO of Non Projects, a creative music label based out of Los Angeles. In just one year, the label has seen widely lauded releases from himself, Asura, Ana Caravelle and a.d.l.r. With growing attention paid to his own works and the gifted and unique core of artists on Non Projects, Simon and Non Projects have recently been featured in both XLR8R and on the cover of the LA Times' Brand X weekly paper.

A lifetime resident of Los Angeles, Brian studied Music History and Theory at UCLA with no prior formal musical training. Within a rigorous academic framework, Simon's ear quickly picked up on all things music from Gregorian chant to 12-tone writing among many other

forms, though it was both the inspiring and improvisatory melodic playing of free jazz musicians such as Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane and Keith Jarrett combined with the influence of many outer milieu current electronic composers that compelled Simon to make his own music. A saxophone and much electronic equipment were soon acquired and the guise Anenon was born.

As Anenon, Simon's music envelops the listener's entire body with ethereal audio imagery. Synthesizers, sample fragments, saxophone playing and any other found sounds combine to create worlds of driving dream-like evocations in which listeners can get lost. Anenon has been featured on the Silver Trees / Damiel split EP with Asura (Non Projects), Only Mountain: The Remixes by Take (Alpha Pup), Basic Climb Re-Imagined by Ana Caravelle (Non Projects) and will be featured on the upcoming Brownswood Electr*c 2 for Gilles Peterson's Brownswood label. His full length debut is currently in the works for Non Projects.

Cigarette Opérahouse
Cigarette Opérahouse is an emerging electronic duo formed in 2010 by Julien Verneau and Bredon Crawford. Their work rests at the interface between electroacoustic composition and sampling. They resample their compositions and recompose their samples. Julien is an ingénieur diplômé and composer from Nancy, France. His interests range between regenerative medicine, legal systems, vintage synthesizers and musical composition. Julien was influenced by electronic music while dj'ing techno and acid techno across France between 1998 and 2003. Bredon is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist from Toronto, Canada. His early musical interests include art rock and synthpop. current performances include live acoustic sets and electropop dj sets. Cigarette Opérahouse combines live instrumentation with controllerism and monome performance.

Darkseeker
Darkseeker is Michael Sifeldeen, a 21-year-old electronic music producer and DJ from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. His work focuses primarily on dubstep, but he can also be heard producing and performing anything from glitch and grime to electropop and house.

Edison
Edison is an electronic musician based in San Francisco, California. He composes and performs with his laptop and hand made Monome controllers, built from lunchboxes. Yes, that's right - converted lunchboxes. He has brought a new sound to the already exploding beat scene, by employing a closet of dusty old instruments, glitched out percussion and perfect melodies.

Originally spawned in the pine trees of upstate NY, his musical father and brother were the biggest influence on his sound and passion for music. Growing up on guitars and 4 tracks, Edison was forever noisy, soaking up the long winters in recording recluse. After leaving his home state, he quickly picked up new methods and musical ideology. He learned digital methods, and strived to make them organic and human.

After landing in the Bay Area ten years ago, he started producing tracks for friends and fellow musicians. He dabbled with simple electronics and new performance methods, while building his own machines to exploit his one man band.

Edison has since been involved with artists from around the globe, including indie rap stars such as Aesop Rock, Sole, 2mex, Existereo, and Bleubird. He has been invited to play shows all over the U.S. and toured through Europe. Over the years he's shared the stage with the likes of Daddy Kev, Elliot Lipp, Nobody, D-Styles, Nocando, Daedelus, Jogger, Cage, Tehn, Mike Gao, Thesis Sahib, Altitude Sickness, %, DJ Pain, Motionless, Babelfishh, and his rap crew Papervehicle.

Edison has also been invited to play and speak about his production and performances at California Academy of Sciences, Princeton university, and Grey Area Foundation For the Arts, at events bringing together the biggest names in the San Francisco, monome and electronic music worlds respectively.

Edison's debut album "All the Information at Hand" released on December 22nd 2009, on Kid Without Radio, a label coming into it's own fame for bringing live electronic performers / producers together, and exposing them to the world. (Kid Without Radio is paired with the profound Alpha Pup Digital Distribution.) Coupled with his "Tonka Truck" video, Edison has garnered many fans, with rave reviews, Vimeo front page staff picks, article coverage, and hundreds of thousands of views. Recently, Edison released 3 digital beat tapes for Aesop Rock's website, 900bats drawing much attention and traffic.

Edison's second release dropped in February 2011, on Kid Without Radio. It is entitled "People Are Bad Animals" and is tearing up the beat scene, with production, sound, concept and performance. Edison has now also teamed up with CSTNG-SHDWS (a visual team) to bring a highly innovative new video production, and live show elements.

Lokey
Leif Olson, aka Lokey, routinely operating in and around the planet earth, is currently constrained within the northern americas, making music, creating pictures, and observing events. I generate broken, evocative pulses of chaos, synchronously echoing in and out of whatever collective consciousness pulses through my world; into your ears, flaring across the mind, through the spine and out of your toes, into the roots of the world, grounding you into the potential universe. Desperate neural remapping, but with a wry sense of humor to smooth out the transition.

Making the Noise
Making the noise is an alias of Adam Ribaudo, a Boston-based producer who delivers cerebral electronic music that varies from lush airy sonicscapes to dirty glitchy beats. Using an assortment of custom or self-made software and hardware components to keep his music organic and spontaneous, mtn makes laptop music that doesn't hide behind the laptop.

noiseflowr

noiseflowr is Brian Westcott from Edmonton, Canada. The pronunciation is ambiguous, technically "noise flow-er" but "noise flower" is also acceptable if he's in the right mood.

noiseflowr creates sounds which can sometimes be classified as musical by working with simple components to build a complex texture, and then ramming it though a distortion effect. His sounds are produced in Ableton Live and Reaktor.

Portable Sunsets
Portable Sunsets was born in mountainous sunshine and lives by the sea. This music is about silicon sand and robot romance. The song makes us love. The song makes us dance.

The Sweaty Caps
The Sweaty Caps bridge a gap between punk noise and electronic experimentation. Focusing on improvisational composition and live sampling of instruments and other sound generating objects, the results are sparse and often unpredictable, wavering from collected and calm to complete and utter chaos. The Sweaty Caps currently have an album and an EP for download on Bandcamp, and have just begun working on a non-improvisational full length that will be released on soundcyst Recordings when it is ready.

TheAlphaNerd
Myles Borins is a visual artist working, consulting, and studying in Toronto, Ontario. He has an Ontario College Diploma in "Digital Animation" and is finishing a BFA in "Integrated Media" at OCAD University. His hobbies include Max/Msp/Jitter, Ableton, Physical Computing, Subtractive Synthesis, Musimathics, hardware hacking, DIY, and Electricity. His work has most recently been seen on the pixel board of Roy Thompson Hall during the recent "New Creations" festival, and at Interaccess Electronic Media Arts Center during the "Handmade Music Festival".

When he grows up he wants to be an Inventor.

Watson
Watson is Frank Watson Rose IV. Currently living in Santa Fe, NM, he began making music of the electronic variety after discovering the monome in 2009. The sheer audacity of creating a device that dosent actually do anything was what impressed him so much. He started making music in 1990 after picking up a guitar, quitting, and learning drums. He has played in bands in Seattle and Houston, from grunge to punk to ska with names such as The Housewives Choice, Toilet Bowl C Monkeys, The NicOteens, and Tu Madre. Frank eventually moved on to hand drums and then left music entirely to pursue a visual art degree until said monome discovery in 2009.

Watson released his first solo EP in January 2011 and was invited to perform at the 2011 Communikey Festival.