



Ephemeral Radio Music Newsletter

Music News About Atlanta Songwriters Series, The Happenstance 2007, City Skies Festival, and The Moog Foundation

Dear Jim,

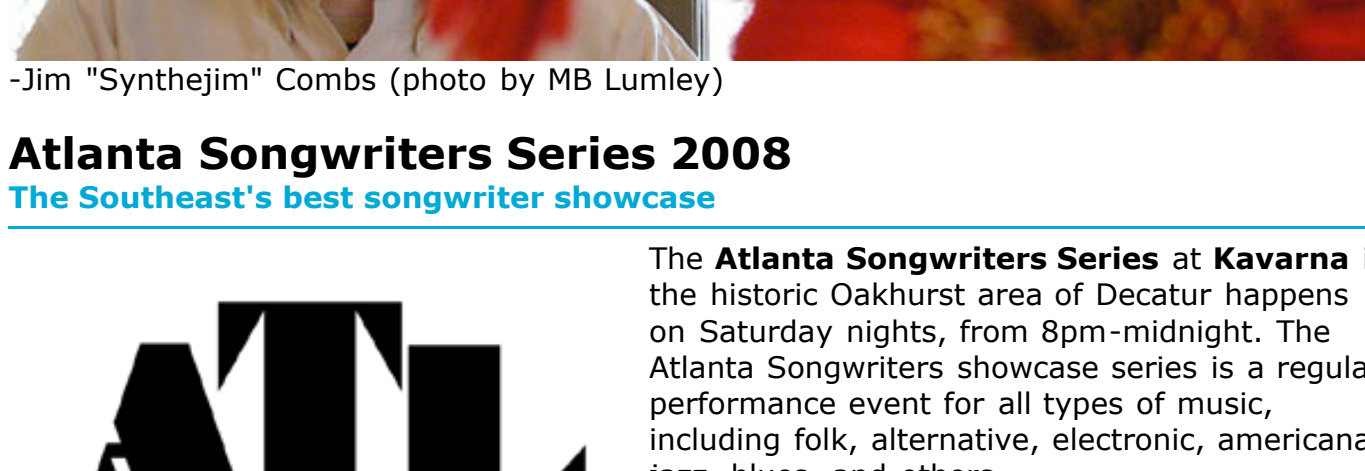
Happy New Year!

2008 is already tracking to be a fantastic year for music. Check out the fabulous line-ups playing the **Atlanta Songwriters Series** at Kavarna. Chock full of goodness through April!

And then May kicks off with the first annual **City Skies Electronic Music Festival**, featuring some of the country's best electronic and space music practitioners, many you've heard on Music From The Hearts Of Space, Echoes, Soma FM, WREK, and WRAS. This event promises to be the best electronic music showcase in the Southeast (if not the country), so make your plans accordingly.

One of the best events of any year is the annual **The Happenstance**. This year's event held at The EARL in December was no exception. Incredible performances by 6 new bands hastily thrown together playing all new songs and one cover. John McNicholas was one of the featured players this year and gives us the lowdown.

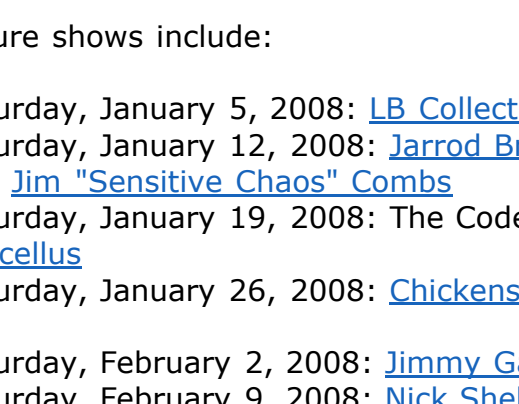
And **The Moog Foundation** carries on the legacy and good works of Bob Moog. Some recent pictures have been posted of the state of Bob's archives and some of the treasures in need of help.



-Jim "Synthejim" Combs (photo by MB Lumley)

Atlanta Songwriters Series 2008

The Southeast's best songwriter showcase



The **Atlanta Songwriters Series** at **Kavarna** in the historic Oakhurst area of Decatur happens on Saturday nights, from 8pm-midnight. The Atlanta Songwriters showcase series is a regular performance event for all types of music, including folk, alternative, electronic, americana, jazz, blues, and others.

Kavarna is a great location for **ATL Songwriters**, with more room for fans and performers, a great menu of Mediterranean food, a nice wine and beer menu, and a large selection of specialty coffees and teas. Kavarna is a no-smoking venue with a cool vibe for all ages.

Future shows include:

Saturday, January 5, 2008: [LB Collective](#), [Cyndi Craven](#), [Dylan Kight](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, January 12, 2008: [Jarrod Brogden](#), [Geisha Hit Squad](#), [Sweet-Tooth Simpleton](#), and [Jim "Sensitive Chaos" Combs](#)

Saturday, January 19, 2008: The Codex Boom, [Imagination Head](#), [Strez!!!!](#), and [Marcellus](#)

Saturday, January 26, 2008: [Chickens & Pigs](#), [Lucas Mire'](#), [Sonia Tetlow](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, February 2, 2008: [Jimmy Galloway](#), [The Hinch Mob](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, February 9, 2008: [Nick Shelton](#), [Brad Sweitzer](#), [Josh Preston](#), and [Jim "Sensitive Chaos" Combs](#)

Saturday, February 16, 2008: [The Good Graces](#), [The Subliminator](#), [Mark Phelps](#), and [Marcellus](#)

Saturday, February 23, 2008: [Folk Goddess](#), [Max Forstater](#), [Doug Long](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, March 1, 2008: [Nick Edelstein](#), [Brett Schieber](#), [John Stun](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, March 8, 2008: [Silence Syndicate](#), [Chris Moore](#), [Cortez Garza](#), and [Jim "Sensitive Chaos" Combs](#)

Saturday, March 15, 2008: [Greg Conners](#), [Wighat](#), [VieTNam](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, March 22, 2008: [Amy Lashley](#), [Klimchak](#), [Sean Kagalis](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, March 29, 2008: [Mary Delaney](#), [Michael C. Smith](#), [Leadcar Holiday](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, April 5, 2008: [John McNicholas](#), [Spy Magnet](#), [Geoff Ford](#), and [Brad Jones](#)

Saturday, April 12, 2008: [Hollin Gammage](#), [Kevin Spears](#), [Zac Denton](#), and [Jim "Sensitive Chaos" Combs](#)

Saturday, April 19, 2008: [Laura Lockie & Charles King](#), [Lindsay Appel](#), [Mary Miller](#), and [Marcellus](#)

Friday & Saturday, May 2 & 3, 2008: **City Skies 08** Electronic Music Festival with [Richard Devine](#), [aTheNa Blue](#), [recompas](#), [Tony Gerber](#), [Giles Reaves](#), [Klimchak](#), [Sensitive Chaos](#), [Paul Vnuk Jr.](#), [Mark Mahoney & M. Peck](#), [Kevin Spears](#), [Earthgirl](#), [Burning Artist\(s\) Sale](#), [Harold Timms](#), [Fringe Element](#), [Bill Fox](#), [John Rossi III](#), [Hong Waltzer](#), and [Jeff Kunzelman](#).

The Atlanta Songwriters Series @ Kavarna

8pm-12am
<http://www.myspace.com/atlsongwriters>

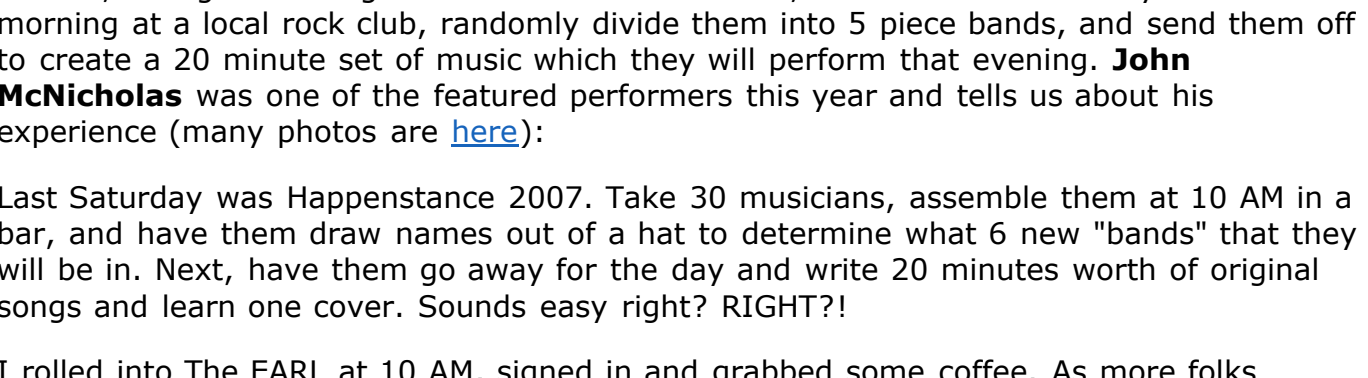
Kavarna is located at:

707 East Lake Drive
Decatur GA 30030
<http://www.myspace.com/kavarna>

The Atlanta Songwriters Series will continue on Saturdays at Kavarna. Please contact Brad Jones for booking opportunities at <http://www.myspace.com/ancientyouthmusic>

The Happenstance 2007

A review by John McNicholas



(photo by Michelle Friedman/Spy Magnet) This year's The Happenstance was another home run for the local music community. **The Happenstance** is a yearly musical event in Atlanta, Georgia. The organizers select 30 musicians, make them meet early in the morning at a local rock club, randomly divide them into 5 piece bands, and send them off to create a 20 minute set of music which they will perform that evening. **John McNicholas** was one of the featured performers this year and tells us about his experience (many photos are [here](#)):

Last Saturday was Happenstance 2007. Take 30 musicians, assemble them at 10 AM in a bar, and have them draw names out of a hat to determine what 6 new "bands" that they will be in. Next, have them go away for the day and write 20 minutes worth of original songs and learn one cover. Sounds easy right? RIGHT?!

I rolled into The EARL at 10 AM, signed in and grabbed some coffee. As more folks arrived, I got more and more excited. Jenny and Mike from The Eyes were there. Mary O. Harrison, Tracy Clark from The Preakness, Blake Guthrie, and lots of other folks were there and ready to rock in the early morning.

Quick enough the 6 "front persons" took center stage and pulled names out of 5 baseball hats, one each for guitar, bass, drums, and one for an auxiliary player, that could be any instrument.

Jenny Hutton from The Eyes was up first and drew Mike Goldman, her guitar player's name from the hat. There's a rule you can't play with anyone you've been in a band with before, so she had to draw again. "John McNicholas." Cool! I was really hoping to get a chance to play with Jenny and I was equally as excited when she drew Tracy's name from the sweat-stained PBR baseball cap next! The other players would be Harry on drums, and Allen on guitar and keyboards.

The other bands were quickly assembled. We picked our Journey cover tune, and then everyone gathered outside The EARL for the official group picture.

The band headed back to the Harry's practice space, which as luck would have it, was three doors down from the room that The Yum Yum Tree uses at Thunderbox. When we arrived, Harry unlocked the door, looked in the room, paused and said, "one sec." A few minutes later he came out, "Hang out for about 10 minutes, there's a guy sleeping in here." He shares his space with 4 other bands, and one of the guys got kicked out of his apartment and was couch surfing in the space. Literally. There was furniture.

With Sleepy out we began the process of coming up with three tunes. Allen's keyboard was D.O.A., so we took a short break while Jenny ran and got her keyboard as a replacement.

By 12:30 PM we were ready to rock. I had had an idea on the way over about a song with a Lee Renaldo-spoken-word style verse and a catchy chorus, so that was the first song attempted, and the first song quickly aborted.

Jenny and Allen had an idea for a song with a 50's progression that we all jumped right in on, and it sounded great right off the bat. Jenny decided to compose lyrics about the guy that was sleeping in the space. Fun!

I started messing around on guitar and Tracy said, hey, that's good for the song that you wanted to do earlier. For the next hour and a half we worked on what would become a song called "One Great Song!" It's a fictional story about how all the guys in Journey met. I love it.

Next up, Tracy suggested we work up a fun and funky tune. We did, and we called it "It's Your Thing." This one quickly became a favorite of the other bands in the space, as I later heard how much they were digging that one at 3:30 PM in the afternoon from the rooms next door.

We took a break for pizza, told some stories and attempted to clear our heads. We did, we cleared them so well we could barely remember the songs. Back at the space we ran through everything a few times, worked on Tracy's tune and Jenny finished up the words to what would become "Practice Space Surfer."

Next up was the cover, Journey's "Wheel in the Sky." Awesome, yes I know. We stripped out all the hard parts, and rocked it with guitar solos and vocal harmonies. Yes, it was glorious.

Suddenly it was 8 PM. We had to be there by 9 PM. We ran to our cars through the rainy parking lot and headed home to take a break/nap/eat before load in.

I ran home, changed, and got back to the EARL a little before 9pm, met with Liz and brought my stuff inside.

The order of the bands was randomly decided, and we were picked to be second. This was perfect, let the first band break the ice and we could play before we forgot all the songs or had to many beers!

The first band sounded great, Mary O. was on keyboards, and they sounded damn fine. The bar was set high. We were up next. We guitars were quickly thrown on stage, tuned up, beers refilled and before I knew it we were being introduced. "Will you please welcome to the stage '27 Vagrants!"

We started with Tracy's song, "It's Your Thing," and the people were dancing. So far so good! Next up was Jenny's "Practice Space Surfer" and after a few false starts we were off and rocking. Tracy and I were hitting the backups hard and Jenny's lyrics were great. I'll have to provide a transcription soon.

My song was third, and "One Great Song!" was rocking from beginning to end, not so much in the middle, but hey, it was rocking and nobody noticed, right? I told the story of 4 musicians in the 70s, rocking and rolling their way to rock and roll history.

For the grand finale we rocked The EARL with some Journey from 1978! "Wheel in the sky keeps on turning!" Jenny switched over to keyboards and we ended the tune with an arena-rock ending, Tracy fell over, Allen and I pulled out some rock moves and then we burned the staged to the ground with pry. I made up that last part.

In just the blink of an eye our day was over. It was a quick day, a quick set and now we would sit back and just enjoy ourselves for the rest of the evening.

Blake Guthrie headed up the next band, featuring Leanna from the Georgia Fireflies on drums with some other fine folks. They sounded great and the words were top notch.

The fourth band consisted of Sonia from Cowboy Mouth and others. They started of by jumping into the crowd with a rocking surf instrumental and the intensity only went up from there for the entire set.

Band number five feature Mike from the Eyes on guitar and Yum Yum Tree drummer Alex. They rocked. The best joke of the night goes to the unknown drummer in the audience that used his sticks and did a "One, Two, Three, FOUR!" and the entire band started except for Alex. Fantastic.

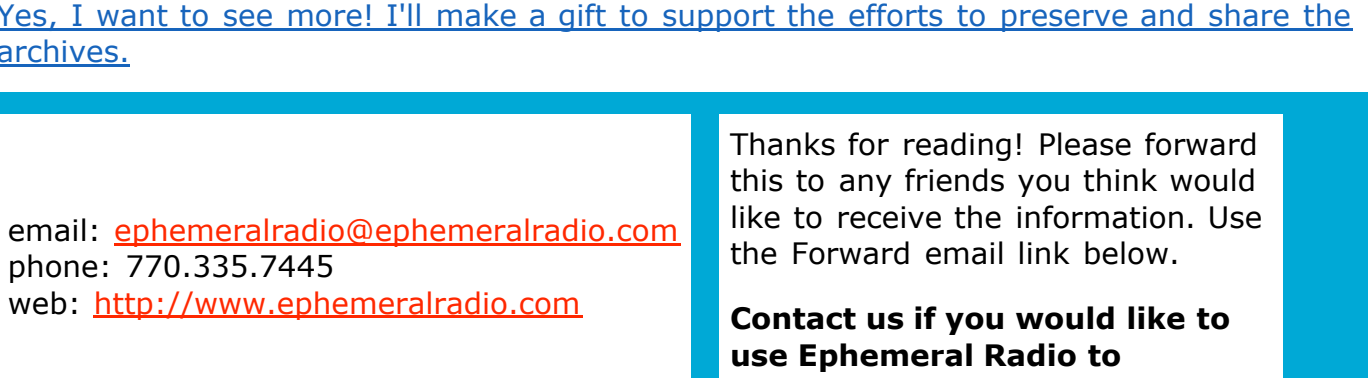
Finally, band numero six hit the stage. I don't know any of these folks, but they rocked it and rocked it good. It was a fitting way to conclude what was one of the most fun and memorable days.

What an amazing event, with an amazing group of talented people.

The Happenstance is organized by Brian Fletcher (Luigi) and Jeff Holt (Silent Kids, Georgia Fireflies) with help from various other local musicians. Learn more at thehappenstance.com.

City Skies 08 Electronic Music Festival News

Performer list shaping up nicely



City Skies 08 Electronic Music Festival will be held in Decatur, GA on May 2nd and 3rd, 2008. The list of performers is still being finalized, but early confirmations include Richard Devine (Georgia), Mark Mahoney & M. Peck (Tennessee), Jan Pulsford aka aTheNa Blue (Tennessee), Jeannie Allen aka Earthgirl (Indiana), Paul Vnuk Jr. (Wisconsin), Burning Artist(s) Sale (Georgia), Fringe Element (Pennsylvania), recompas (Georgia), Kevin Spears (Georgia), Bill Fox (Pennsylvania), Klimchak (Georgia), Tony Gerber (Tennessee), Giles Reaves (Utah), Jeff Kunzelman (Arizona), John Rossi III (Florida), Harold Timms (Georgia), and Jim Combs aka Sensitive Chaos (Georgia). The tentative line up includes musicians heard on Music From the Hearts of Space, Echoes, Soma FM, StillStream, and more.

Real electronic music performed live by humans

Musical styles will range from ambient to downtempo chillout to Berlin school to electropop to space rock to tribal to experimental. All music will be performed, this is NOT a DJ event.

Performances will be divided into three session: The first session runs from 6pm - 12 midnight on Friday, May 2nd, session 2 runs from 12 noon - 5pm on Saturday, May 3rd, and session 3 will conclude the event from 7pm - 12 midnight on Saturday, May 3rd. Advance tickets will be available for a donation of \$10 (per session). All proceeds will go to the performers.

We have chosen Kavarna in the Oakhurst area of Decatur for the concert venue. Kavarna gives us a perfect vibe for our inaugural event, with a nice selection of food and beverage for festival attendees, and an intimate listening room with excellent sound.

For press inquiries, or if you have interest in attending the festival as either an audience member, production volunteer, or media representative, please [contact us](#) for more information.

Sign up as a MySpace friend [here](#) or see our [web site](#).

Help Save Bob Moog's Archives

Support the Moog Foundation

It's no secret Bob Moog is revered around here at Ephemeral Radio. His genius in the hands of Rick Wakeman is a key reason I am a musician who plays synthesizers. My 1974 MiniMoog is a proud fixture in my studio and surprises me with amazing sounds every time I turn it on. So I'm a big supporter of both Moog Music and the Moog Foundation. The Foundation's newsletter featured this news recently:

My name is Douglas Babb. I am the curator for the Bob Moog Foundation. The Moog family has asked me to lead the charge in the immense task of caring for the thousands of priceless artifacts contained in Bob's estate. We have been working for month's to save Bob's archives. Thanks to your support, we are able to take this tiny first step and to put up just a few pictures of the un-restored archives online.

[These are the first public pictures of The Bob Moog Archives \[unrestored\].](#)

At first glance, Bob's old warehouse looks like a pile of junk. There are just stacks of boxes upon boxes. An ironing board and waffle maker. An 8 track reel to reel. A stack of keyboards. The smell of mold makes you try to hold your breath. Most boxes contain mouse droppings and spiders love it here. Schematics, prototypes, and personal correspondence are all in bad conditions.

When I started looking around, I thought "Is that an RCA Theremin in that cardboard shipping box? Bob's college textbooks? His diploma on a top shelf under a sealed copy of "Switched On Bach"? Can this really be the repository of more than 50 years of work?"

Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. And it will all decay into junk unless we take action ASAP.

[You can see the photos here.](#)

There is a misconception that success=wealth. Bob Moog was far from financially rich. The Bob Moog Foundation is entirely funded by donations and grants. The foundation is hard at work preserving the archives, but the amount of time, work and money is more than we can handle alone. I'm donating my time and expertise. I've also made my own financial contribution. Will you do the same?

Thank you for your interest & support,

Douglas Babb Curator The Bob Moog Foundation

[Yes, I want to see more! I'll make a gift to support the efforts to preserve and share the archives.](#)

Thanks for reading! Please forward this to any friends you think would like to receive the information. Use the Forward email link below.

email: ephemeralradio@ephemeralradio.com

phone: 770.335.7445

web: <http://www.ephemeralradio.com>

Contact us if you would like to use Ephemeral Radio to publicize your band or event.