



## Ephemeral Radio Music Newsletter

**Music News About Atlanta Songwriters Series, City Skies 08 Electronic Music Events, Richard Lainhart, Different Skies Festival 2008, The Good Graces**

Dear Jim,

Sorry for the lateness of this issue of Ephemeral Radio. It's been a busy time and will remain so, in a good way, for at least another month.

After a slew of recent performances with The Good Graces, Bribing The Buddha, and Sensitive Chaos, I'm off to perform at my fifth Different Skies Music Festival at Arcosanti, Arizona starting next weekend from September 14 - 20. It's really a joy to be able to spend an entire week ensconced in a unique environment with 20+ phenomenal musicians from around the world, and just eat, drink, and play music. Very inspiring.

When I get back, two big events are immediately on the horizon: The Good Graces CD release show at Kavarna on October 3rd, and the reanimated City Skies Electronic Music Event at Kavarna all day on October 4th with a lineup of musicians from all over the U.S. converging again in Decatur to showcase a fantastic array of electronic music.

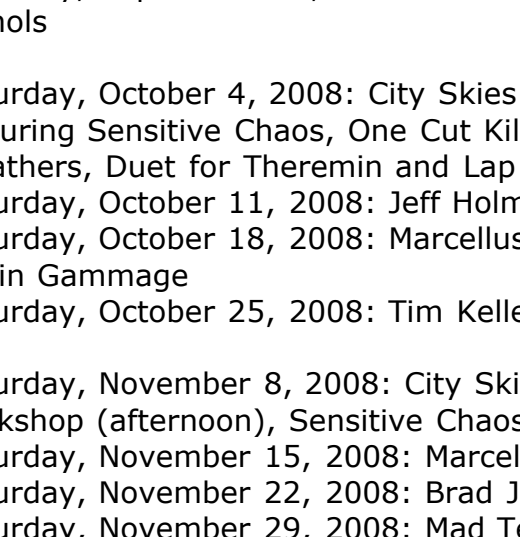
And a heads up for the November City Skies Event in November. Richard Lainhart from New York, Moogfest performer and recent Jordan Rudess collaborator, as well as a Buchla 200e owner, will be performing and also presenting a workshop on Multi-Dimensional Control for Realtime Analog Synthesis Performance the afternoon before the show. More details for all of the above below.



-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 tasty and inexpensive food, a nice wine and beer menu, and a large selection of specialty coffees and teas. Kavarna is a non-smoking venue with a cool vibe and a good sound

for all ages.

Future shows include:

Saturday, September 13, 2008: John Stun, The Subliminator, Greg Connors, Vietnam  
Saturday, September 20, 2008: Renee' Mixon, Art Linton, Roxie Watson, and Marcellus  
Saturday, September 27, 2008: Ken Kiser, Just Jo (Jo-Anne Carlson), Dylan Kight, Tim Nichols

Saturday, October 4, 2008: City Skies Electronic Music Day from Noon until Midnight featuring Sensitive Chaos, One Cut Kill, Kurt Michaels, Broken Symmetry, Andrew Weathers, Duet for Theremin and Lap Steel, Indigovox, and citizenGreen.  
Saturday, October 11, 2008: Jeff Holmes of the Floatingmen  
Saturday, October 18, 2008: Marcellus, The New Whole Usuals, The Young Sophisticates, Hollin Gammage  
Saturday, October 25, 2008: Tim Kelley, Nina 57, Cell Fehrenbach, Spy Magnet

Saturday, November 8, 2008: City Skies Electronic Music Event- Richard Lainhart workshop (afternoon), Sensitive Chaos, Richard Lainhart, Collaboration With Sounds  
Saturday, November 15, 2008: Marcellus, Allison Weiss, Cheeksters  
Saturday, November 22, 2008: Brad Jones, Jay Wiggins, Uncle Daddy  
Saturday, November 29, 2008: Mad Tea Party, Vortex Park

Saturday, December 6, 2008: The Jane and Scott Show, Liz Lee, The Abuwan Family  
Saturday, December 13, 2008: City Skies Electronic Music Event- Sensitive Chaos, Michael Thomas Roe, Masik

## The Atlanta Songwriters Series @ Kavarna

**8pm-12am**

<http://www.myspace.com/atlsongwriters>

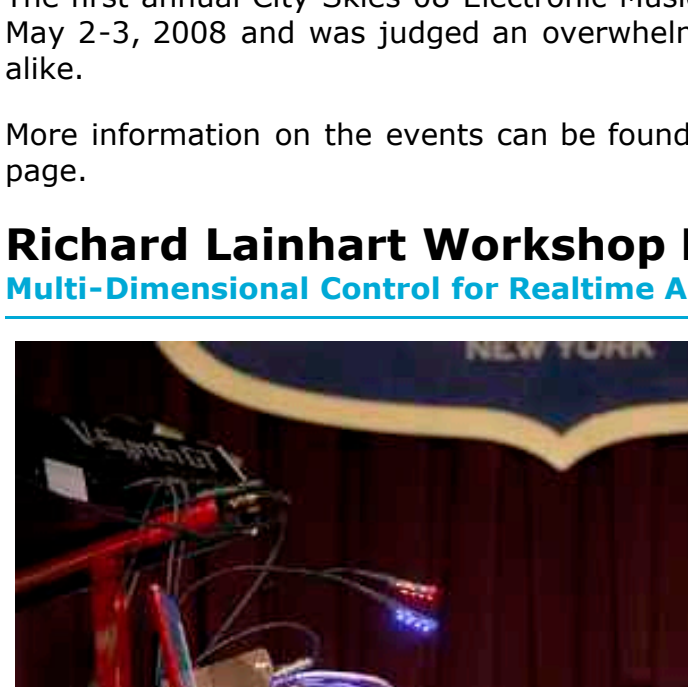
Kavarna is located at:

707 East Lake Drive  
Decatur GA 30030

<http://www.myspace.com/instantkavarna>

## City Skies 08 Electronic Music Events

**Monthly events start October 4, 2008**



The City Skies 08 Electronic Music events will resume this fall to showcase the region's best electronic musicians at our favorite venue, Kavarna. There is obviously a pent up demand for listening to a great range of electronic music styles in a chillout environment with a crowd of appreciative musicians and fans.

The next City Skies 08 event will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008, with shows starting at 12 noon and 7pm. Confirmed performers include:

- Broken Symmetry
- citizenGreen
- Duet for Theremin & Lap Steel
- Indigovox
- Kurt Michaels from Illinois
- One Cut Kill from Alabama
- Sensitive Chaos
- Andrew Weathers (the artist formerly known as Pacific Before Tiger) from North Carolina

Future show dates include (shows start at 8pm):

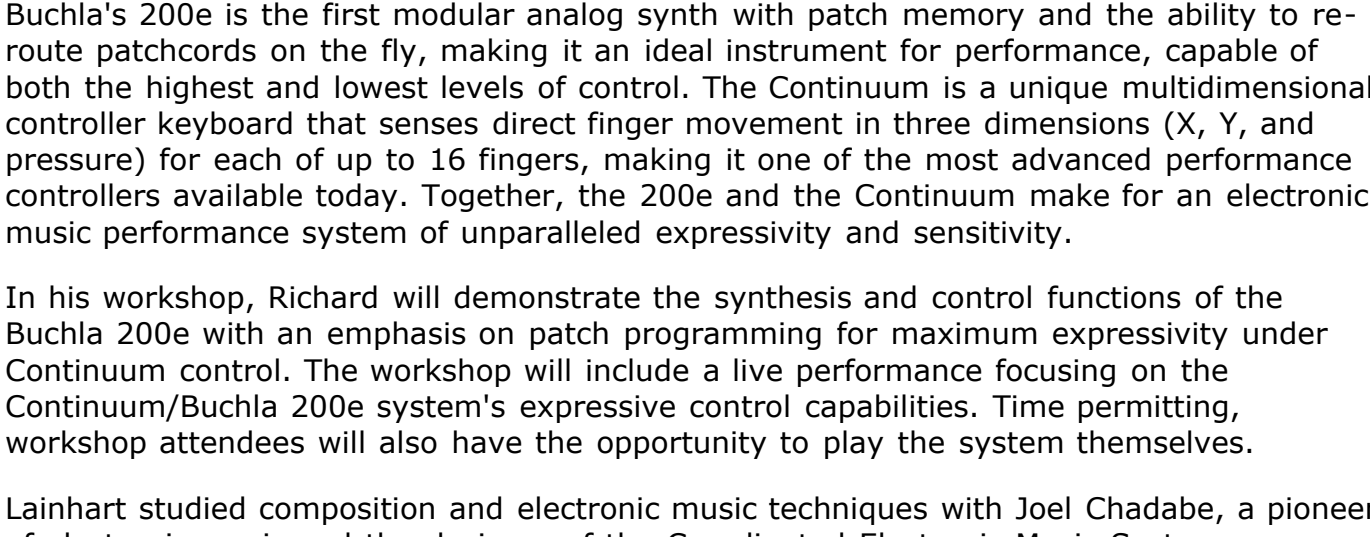
- November 8th, 2008, Richard Lainhart workshop (2pm in afternoon), Bribing The Buddha, Richard Lainhart, Collaboration with Sounds
- December 13th, 2008, Sensitive Chaos, Michael Thomas Roe, Masik
- January 10th, 2009, Sensitive Chaos, The Synthetix, Klimchak
- February 14th, 2009, Diskeyes-SaNa-Positron, Don Hassler
- March 14th, 2009
- April 11th, 2009
- May 8th and 9th, 2009

The first annual City Skies 08 Electronic Music Festival was held in Decatur, Georgia on May 2-3, 2008 and was judged an overwhelming success by audience and performers alike.

More information on the events can be found at [cityskies.com](http://cityskies.com) and the City Skies [MySpace](http://myspace.com) page.

## Richard Lainhart Workshop November 8, 2008

**Multi-Dimensional Control for Realtime Analog Synthesis Performance**



As part of the City Skies Electronic Music Event on November 8, 2008, a very special workshop will be held at Kavarna in the Oakhurst area of Decatur in the afternoon prior to the evening's performance. The workshop will be on Multi-Dimensional Control for Realtime Analog Synthesis Performance and will be given by Richard Lainhart and will feature Lainhart's Buchla 200e synthesizer (a custom, \$20,000+ instrument) and Haken Continuum Fingerboard controller (a custom \$5000+ controller). The workshop will be from 2pm-4pm and will cost \$15 per person. Workshop attendance is limited.

Richard Lainhart is a composer, performer, and filmmaker based in New York. Besides performing his own work, he has worked and performed with John Cage, David Tudor, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Phill Niblock, David Berhman, and Jordan Rudess, among many others.

The promise of electronic music has been, from the beginning, to provide the composer with the means to create his or her own unique sounds and musics without the need for intermediaries like performers and technicians. And the problem with electronic music has been, from the beginning, to endow synthesized sound with the same organic expressivity found in acoustic instruments and natural sound while making synthesizers viable performance instruments in their own right.

The first electronic instruments intended for performance, such as the Theremin and the Ondes Martenot, while providing the performer with highly nuanced pitch control, had limited sound-shaping control and could only play one note at a time. The first modular analog synthesizers, while offering polyphony - the ability to play multiple notes simultaneously - and unlimited sonic control, had limited expressive performance control and were completely impractical for live use.

There have been many attempts since then to integrate the unlimited potential of modular analog synthesis with practical performance capabilities, and to provide the electronic music composer/performer with the kind of expressive musical control available in advanced acoustic instruments. Among of the most successful and creative of these efforts are the Buchla 200e modular modular synthesizer and the Haken Continuum Fingerboard.

Buchla's 200e is the first modular analog synth with patch memory and the ability to re-route patchcords on the fly, making it an ideal instrument for performance, capable of both the highest and lowest levels of control. The Continuum is a unique multidimensional controller keyboard that senses direct finger movement in three dimensions (X, Y, and pressure) for each of up to 16 fingers, making it one of the most advanced performance controllers available today. Together, the 200e and the Continuum make for an electronic music performance system of unparalleled expressivity and sensitivity.

In his workshop, Richard will demonstrate the synthesis and control functions of the Buchla 200e with an emphasis on patch programming for maximum expressivity under Continuum control. The workshop will include a live performance focusing on the Continuum/Buchla 200e system's expressive control capabilities. Time permitting, workshop attendees will also have the opportunity to play the system themselves.

Lainhart studied composition and electronic music techniques with Joel Chadabe, a pioneer of electronic music and the designer of the Coordinated Electronic Music System (<http://emfinstitute.emf.org/exhibits/cems.html>) and (<http://www.otownmedia.com/chadabe.jpg>), at one time the largest integrated Moog synthesizer system in the world. From 1987-1990, Lainhart was the Technical Director for Intelligent Music, developers of innovative computer music software like M, Jam Factory, and UpBeat.

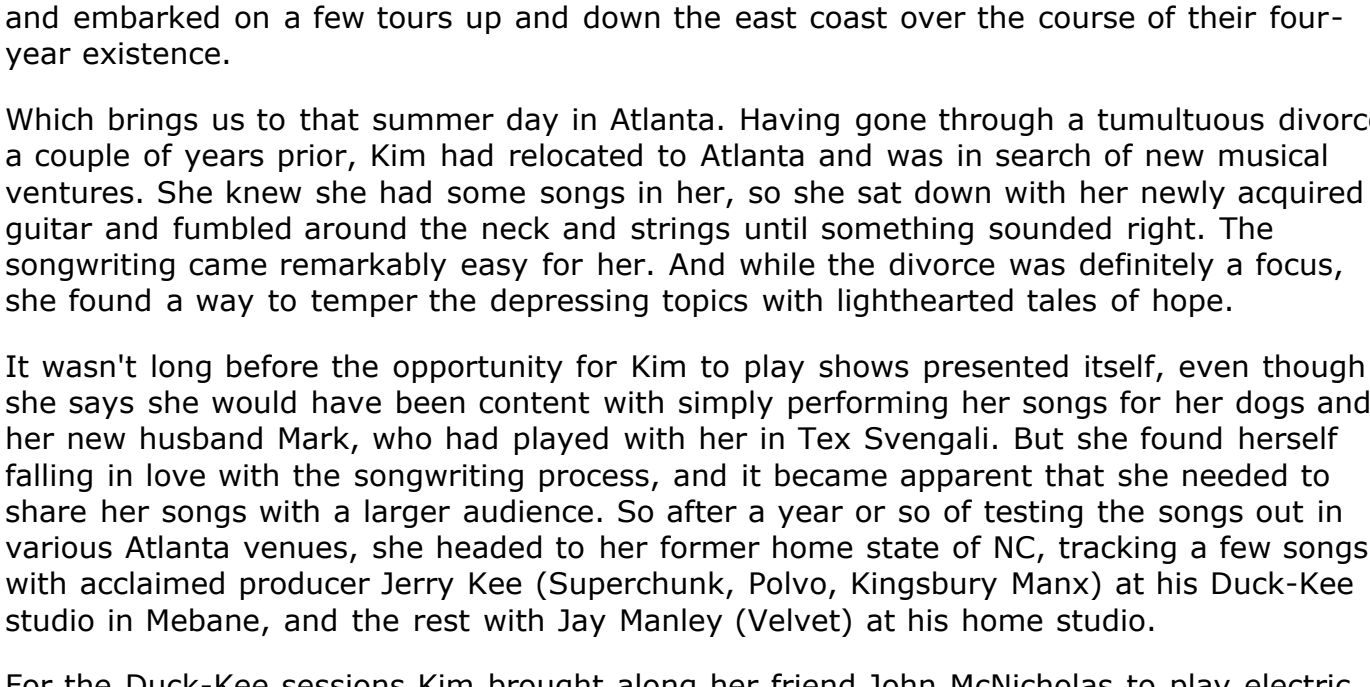
His compositions have been performed in the US, England, Sweden, Germany, Australia, and Japan. Recordings of his music have appeared on the Periodic Music, Vacant Lot, XI Records, ExOvo and Airglow Music labels and are distributed online via MusicZeit. As an active performer, Lainhart has appeared in public approximately 2000 times. He has composed over 100 electronic and acoustic works, and has been making music for forty years.

Lainhart's animations and short films have been shown in festivals in the US, Canada, Germany, and Korea, and online at ResFest, The New Venue, The Bitscreen, and Streaming Cinema 2.0. His film "A Haiku Setting" won awards in several categories at the 2002 International Festival of Cinema and Technology in Toronto. In 2008, he was awarded a Film & Media grant by the New York State Council on the Arts for "No Other Time", full-length intermedia performance designed for a large reverberant space, combining live analog electronics with four-channel playback, and high-definition computer-animated film projection.

- Richard Lainhart  
<http://www.otownmedia.com>  
[http://www.downloadplatform.com/richard\\_lainhart](http://www.downloadplatform.com/richard_lainhart)  
<http://www.vimeo.com/rlainhart>  
<http://www.airglow.com>

## Different Skies 2008 Space Music Festival

**Concert scheduled for September 20, 2008 at 7:30pm Arizona time**



Different Skies is back again for its 6th year September 14-20, 2008, with musical artists old and new, a new palette of ideas, and a lot of energy and drive to create beauty for you.

Different Skies is an electronic space music festival, a workshop for artists in these and related experimental music genres, a working vacation, an intensive and rewarding creative environment, and many more things. It is held at Arcosanti, Paolo Soleri's urban laboratory an hour north of Phoenix, Arizona.

Recording Magazine editor Mike Metlay began Different Skies in 2003 with the assistance of Tucson musician and radio show host Doug Wellington, as an opportunity that rarely presents itself in the rarefied world of space music: a chance for members of the electronic music community to get together for an extended period of time in a controlled and isolated environment, to network and learn from one another, form new professional alliances and new friendships, and to create and perform an evening of entirely original new music for an enthusiastic audience.

Electronic music, which features the synthesizer and computer as prominently as it does traditional amplified and acoustic instruments, is traditionally viewed as a lonely art form, created by musicians working alone in small studios. Opportunities to build community among these musicians are rare.

The first step was to find a place which was inspiring and welcoming to visiting musicians, where rehearsals could be both relaxed and energetic, with a fixed goal in mind while allowing for flexibility of scheduling on a day to day basis. Arcosanti, with its wonderful admixture of futuristic architecture and art-colony sensibility, seemed a perfect choice.

Performers this year include Different Skies veterans Giles Reaves (Salt Lake City/Nashville), Mike Metlay (Boulder), Otso Pakarinen (Helsinki), Bill Fox (Nazareth), Jim Combs (Atlanta), Rus Foster (Phoenix), Ivan Schwartz (Seattle), Dave Herpich (Kansas), John Rossi III (Florida), Greg Hurley (San Diego), Paul Vnuk Jr. (Milwaukee), Tim Walters (San Francisco), Nick Rothwell (London), Greg and Hong Waltzer (Pennsylvania), and Jeff Kunzelman (Phoenix). First time Different Skies performers include Kevin Haller and Klimchak (Atlanta), Jeannie Allen aka Earthgirl (Indianapolis), Jonathan Mills (Bloomington), and Michael Sanders (Portland).

There will be a lot of fun. We'll see you in the Amphitheatre! Or tune in to [StillStream.com](http://StillStream.com) during the evenings of September 15-20 to hear live performances streamed to your computer.

## The Good Graces Releases New CD On October 3rd

**Sunset Over Saxapahaw release party to be held at Kavarna**



(photo of The Good Graces at The Earl by Mary O. Harrison)

Kim Ware, aka The Good Graces, never intended to make a break-up record. In fact, she never really intended to make a record at all. But while browsing around Atlanta's late great Lakewood Antiques Market one summer day in 2006, she came across a used acoustic/electric guitar, which she snatched up for \$90 and quickly named "Buzzy" due to its propensity to buzz. One problem - Kim was not a guitar player. Instead she had paid her dues as a drummer in various indie-rock bands since the early 90s. Planting her musical roots in Wilmington, NC, Kim was the first of several drummers for underground legends Tex Svengali, and went on to form the band Pacer, who released two albums on Kim's own eskimo kiss label and embarked on a few tours up and down the east coast over the course of their four-year existence.

Which brings us to that summer day in Atlanta. Having gone through a tumultuous divorce a couple of years prior, Kim had relocated to Atlanta and was in search of new musical ventures. She knew she had some songs in her, so she sat down with her newly acquired guitar and fumbled around the neck and strings until something sounded right. The songwriting came remarkably easy for her. And while the divorce was definitely a focus, she found a way to temper the depressing topics with lighthearted tales of hope.

It wasn't long before the opportunity for Kim to play shows presented itself, even though she says she would have been content with simply performing her songs for her dogs and her new husband Mark, who had played with her in Tex Svengali. But she found herself falling in love with the songwriting process, and it became apparent that she needed to share her songs with a larger audience. So after a year or so of testing the songs out in various Atlanta venues, she headed to her former home state of NC, tracking a few songs with acclaimed producer Jerry Kee (Superchunk, Polvo, Kingspar Manx) at his Duck-Keel studio in Mebane, and the rest with Jay Manley (Velvet) at his home studio.

For the Duck-Keel sessions Kim brought along her friend John McNicholas to play electric guitar. John joins her for most of The Good Graces live shows and has a way of turning her own into an interesting folk/shoegaze hybrid. His melodic touches on "Over It," "What's Wrong," and "Unhappy Ending" really help the songs branch out from their acoustic folk-pop foundation and give them a spacey, atmospheric feel. Jay and his wife Francis also added their thumbprints to the record in a big way -- Jay's guitar solo on "Stuck Inside" transformed it from a song Kim didn't think would make the cut into one of the strongest tracks on the record, and Jane's bass flourishes helped complete that song, as well as "Who We Are."

Like many artists, Kim says putting her experiences to music was largely therapeutic. "I had first thought that moving to Atlanta had provided a sort of 'closure,' but in retrospect I think I needed to sing 'I'm getting over it today,' to finally really get over it," she says. Kim also found her time spent recording at Jay and Jane's home in Saxapahaw very inspiring, so much that it prompted her to expand the record from an EP to a full-length, and she decided to name the record after the small town located near the musical mecca of Chapel Hill.

Since the recording of "Sunset" Kim has performed regularly around Atlanta as well as at Wilmington's annual WE Festival in May 2008, followed by a spot in the acclaimed Athens PopFest, The Earl, and Grant Park Summer Shade Festival that August. She already has songs written for an EP she hopes to record and release in '09, which she claims will take her out of her "divorce period," as the songs are much more carefree and fun, but no less personal. For now, she's enjoying the sunset.

The Good Graces "Sunset Over Saxapahaw" CD release party will be Friday, October 3rd, 2008 starting at 8pm at Kavarna in Decatur. In addition to The Good Graces performance, Blake Rainey will be performing a solo set, and a special guest band will be headlining.

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

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