

ROB SCHWIMMER

COMPOSER, PIANIST, THEREMINIST
Dances Easily Between Jazz and Classical While Creating a Genre All His Own

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Rob Schwimmer writes and plays music with a sensual core: sometimes quiet and intimate, sometimes wild and thrilling. Beautiful. Personal. Magical. Memorable.

Rob performs expertly on the piano, theremin, Haken Continuum fingerboard, clavioline, organ, claviola and on other less definable instruments and sound machines. He has performed throughout the world, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Tokyo Dome, Madison Square Garden, and the Colosseum (Rome). He also excels in intimate settings like Le Poisson Rouge, Bargemusic, Joe's Pub, The Blue Note, and many others. Rob is a founding member of both The NY Theremin Society and Polygraph Lounge – a music and comedy duo with multi-instrumentalist Mark Stewart.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

"I play from a repertoire developed over many years of playing in settings that may be considered diametrically opposed such as Carnegie Hall, CBGB's, The Tokyo Dome, The Blue Note, playing for strippers at truckers conventions and the like.

Nevertheless, acting in the capacity of a filter I think the pieces of music present themselves with a good sense of continuity...at least one might say that if you know my personality beforehand. As most don't, I'll do my best to guide you through the narrows of my outlook on life and music.

I perform both original pieces as well as composed and both written and improvised. Often it's a combination of both. I embrace the outlook that, anything may happen at any time (so be forewarned...) I do not actively try to 'make anything happen' but often, it does. I believe in spontaneity after much preparation...

New ways of looking at things are always of interest to me. Finding beauty in unusual places..."





NOTABLE COLLABORATIONS

Simon and Garfunkel at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame 25th Anniversary Concert at Madison Square Garden, as well as their New Zealand, Australia and Japan, North American and European tours (keyboards, theremin and vocals)

WQXR Radio in NYC (Duo for theremin and harpsichord with Bang on a Can's Vicky Chow)

David Krakauer's "Big Picture" Project (Piano, theremin and organ)

Trey Anastasio's most recent album "Traveler" (theremin, Haken Continuum fingerboard, piano, clavinoline, Farfisa, vibes, celeste)

Michael Feinstein's Guest for hour long national NPR show "Song Travels"

Paul Simon, Simon and Garfunkel, Stevie Wonder, Bobby McFerrin, Willie Nelson, The Orchestra of St. Luke's, Chaka Khan, Trey Anastasio, Laurie Anderson, Bette Midler, Queen Latifah, Ang Lee, Trey Anastasio, Gwyneth Paltrow, Josh Groban, Steve Buscemi, The Everly Brothers, Bela Fleck, Kurt Vonnegut, Adam Guettel, Wayne Shorter, and dozens of others.

QUOTES

"Haunting and unforgettable."
~ **The Wire** (UK)

"Meaningful, intelligent and evocative music."
~ **Paul Simon**

"Utterly unique. Virtuoso in the extreme...one of a kind...Such great surprises. The structures are so thoughtful and complete...The world deserves to hear [him]!"
~ **Leonid Hambro**,
Legendary Concert Pianist

"Well stocked brains, strict performance discipline and killer chops."
~ **Boston Globe**

"Rob uses the piano like a French impressionist painter uses a brush – painting scenery, mood and atmosphere – taking me to strange and beautiful places. This music is incredible, very original, takes great chances...He is a true artist."
~ **Geoffrey Holder**,
Tony Award winning Director, Actor, Choreographer

"Rob Schwimmer is an endlessly creative musician who applies his virtuoso technique in surprising and inventive ways."
~ **Bill Bragin**,
Director of Public Programming at Lincoln Center