

## Geoffrey Kuffner, Writing Portfolio

Gamelatron Newsletter 1, originally sent out via Mailchimp



### Gamelatron Newsletter 2012.1

Dear Friends and Fans and Family,

When the Gamelatron was just a baby, we marveled and wondered at it. What is this strange and mysterious creation? What will it grow up to be?

As we head into our fifth year on a wild summer ride, we have for you official Newsletter #1: news of the gongs growing up. We have lots to share with you: A new home, new orchestras, trons in the news, upcoming festivals, a **\*\*very important\*\*** warning for lovers...plus, an mp3 download and the sweetest testimonial to date.

Thanks for all your love, your visions and for sharing and spreading the spirit of the sound.

The Gamelatron Team

1. The Big Brooklyn News... As of May, The Gamelatron lives (along with proud papa Aaron Taylor) in a marvelous DUMBO loft looking out over the East River and Downtown Manhattan. This gorgeous homebase and show space is perfect for intimate concerts and for sharing the sound with potential partners. Much more to come....



*Photo by Nadia Anderson*

**2. NEW ORCHESTRAS....** Not one, but two new gamelatrons have come into the world. This is an incredible step for the project. Combined with small sets that were featured as an add-on to the Burningman installation and the instruments featured in the New Orleans Music Box, there are 5 Gamelatron's out in the world. We can now offer long-term installations (one month, one year, forever....) AND do short-term installations and concerts (see BIG SOUND below). Many thanks go to Tech Shop for their sponsorship and great support for the project. Taylor spent October, November, January and February as their first artist-in-resident in San Francisco machining the robotic components, creating an arcade mandala for autoplay, and composing fresh sets of music for the space. We hosted two super intimate concerts in San Francisco and the Gamelatron made it into

WIRED: <http://www.wired.com/video/gamelatron-robotic-orchestra/1481332065001>

### **3. BIG SOUND: THE FUTURE**

Potential Collaborators.... We are ready for you!! Retreat Centers, Yoga Studios, Hospitals, Community Centers, Destination Spots, Museums or other magic hosts. With five orchestras available, our goal is to create permanent or long-term installations that serve communities in an ongoing creative, healing and joyful way. Where do you see the Gamelatron? Who would you have us talk to or invite over to experience the project (if in New York or San Francisco)? Contact us at [human@gamelatron.com](mailto:human@gamelatron.com).

### **4. CURRENT INSTALLATIONS**

TECH SHOP SAN FRANCISCO. The West Coast Gamelatron will continue its stay at Tech Shop's Annex through the end of the year. This is not open to the public except for special events. Stay tuned for upcoming news. The Annex, however, will soon be available for rental for special events--Gamelatron included.

THE MUSIC BOX NEW ORLEANS was open from October 2011 through June 2012. It is closed for the summer months and will be open only for some private special showings in the fall as they transition to a permanent project known as the [Dithyrambalina](#). This was an extraordinary community art project in New Orleans's 9th Ward--an entire property filled with the whimsical, inventive, sonic creations of various artists housed in all sorts of structures. Taylor created a Pendopo--a Balinese style gazebo--filled with robotized antique vibraphones triggered through an arcade mandala for self-play or full compositions. The project has gotten marvelous press. Here's a couple:

Times Picayune [http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2011/10/a\\_piety\\_street\\_lot\\_becomes\\_the.html](http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2011/10/a_piety_street_lot_becomes_the.html),

Smithsonian <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/video/Listen-to-the-Sounds-of-the-Music-Box.html>, or

New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/22/arts/music/the-music-box-in-new-orleans-is-a-sonic-shantytown.html>.

Here's our footage: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzNaw7fFtn0&list=PL818626BFF6751FEB>

**5. FESTIVAL FEVER...** Japan, Portugal, Governor's Island, PEX summerfest, Wanderlust! We are blessed to bring the Gamelatron to some of the world's greatest festivals. If you are looking for some serious fun and creative community, look no further. Here's where we have been and where we will be

this spring / summer:

Lightning in a Bottle Silverado, CA May 24 - 28,

Figment on Governor's Island (in Ben Jones TreeHouse), June 9 – July 8

Wanderlust, Vermont, June 21 -23

PEX Summerfest, Maryland, June 29 – July 2

Fuji Rock, Japan, July 27 – July 30

BOOM, Portugal, July 28 – August 4

Gamelan Bunga Kota, Brooklyn August 18

ART TORONTO (giant entry way installation), October 26 – 29

and many more not listed or being confirmed.

**6. 197,473 humans** and counting.... approximately as accurate as police crowd counts at protests. To be sure, some heard the gongs echoing across vast wind swept fields while others slept for five days within the belly of sound. (NOTE: Non-human estimates are in the trillions...)

**7. LOVERS:** You are hereby alerted--THE GONGS ARE TUNED TO THE HEART. We are at three engagements, four weddings, and one extraordinary separation.

#### 8. DOWNLOADS AND VISTAS



Photo by [Daniel Jung](#), Sculptural Structures by [Shrine](#)

From the Temple at Burningman:

<http://gamelatron.com/music/Circling.mp3>

(Special thanks to Bradford Smith for the recording)

**9. And, finally.. the SWEETEST TESTIMONIAL TO DATE.** The setting: High on a ridge overlooking gorgeous Lake Irvine, one of Orange County's main reservoirs, gongs playing morning songs during Do Lab's Lightning in a Bottle four-day festival of art. Seeing us caring for the gear, a man approaches to share his tale: "Last night," he said, "I was here with a Mom and her baby girl. While the gongs were playing, the little girl started to dance. She danced and smiled and giggled. Everyone here turned to watch her. The mom said it was the first time her daughter had ever danced. It was magic." So there it is: "Gamelatron: Music for a baby's first dance."

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