

Cheap Newspaper Vol.5

WNP Press, July 11

Latest News

This is the second regular volume we are publishing. The newspaper is planned to be out every Monday, so that the WNP (Worth No Penny) Press is sure you have your garbage reading week supply. Please, feel free to interact with the staff, send in your advertisements, announcements and interesting material. Also, we are happy to inform you on a great interview with xTr1m that you will find on the third page.

Rainy Cities.



Saint Petersburg, London, Boston, Washington... The list is actually quite big. All these cities are cities known for their moderate climate and rains. And the purpose of this article is to understand what rains are in our life and what can they become.

Indeed, rain is something worth discussion. To some it's just a rare incident, to some it's their everyday life. Let's go deep.

People react differently to rains and the most common reaction is - 'bad weather'. However, it always sounded alien to me. Why always 'bad'?

Of course, the fact that rain can be considered romantic or inspiring is widely known. If you are common with tracked music, you probably came upon some rain.xm or rain.it which most definitely had a rain sample and piano melodies. Usually, those tracks were romantic, boring and predictive.

By some rain can also be regarded as a blessing, especially if you are a farmer in dry Texas or a monk of the Rain Monastery. Such cases make rain a holiday.

But I personally know people who don't regard rain as something special at all. Those people see the world as a combination of molecules and organics, they consider their life to be simply a biological cycle and love - a brain chemical reaction. If you have love problems, just visit them and the world will seem a simpler place to be (don't worry - eat something).

There is also a very important rain classification. Rains can be - through sunshine, just drizzling, everyday life, thunderstorm, downpour, all-week flood, dull, awaited, sudden, victorious. Which one do you prefer?

Individual choice matters a lot, but clearly, the reaction 'bad weather' cannot be adequate for every kind of rain. If you call dull rain a 'bad weather', then perhaps you're close to the truth. But don't you love those downpours, when it seems that the sea is being burst out onto the earth? Life seems brighter, interesting and the sky looks young. Something new is happening, traffic stopped, people quit working to go peer at the window, quessing if it's the end of all, the

only people not noticing a change are those watching soccer. Leave them alone in their closed world...

If the rain in your city is the 'everyday life' kind of rain, then it is stupid talking of it as 'bad weather'. You don't want to live your life in bad weather, do you?

Sudden rains are good if you don't want to go to school, job, meeting. Caught by the streams of water on the bus stop without the umbrella, you are forced to go back home to change. You call your teacher/boss and say you'll be late because of a sudden rain. Perhaps, everyone had to return home and change and the lesson/meeting is canceled. You have a day off!

Rain is a good thing when you are staying home. Rain is cool when you are hot. Rain is something you can make a track of and call it rain.mod or rain.mp3 Rain is something that is a part of the world.

What can the reader await in conclusion? A smart copy-book morality? A wise saying?

Nope. No conclusion, no saying. Rain is an endless topic. I love rains, in my city rains are 'everyday life' type. Rains inspire me, they feed me like a flower, they make me more optimistic and I enjoy a cloudy sky the way I enjoy a sunny day. But we did talk a little about rains, didn't we? My greetings to people from rainy cities!

Literature Erudition

Not a single person mailed the answer about Dr. Watson. Being in a humorous context, this question had yet a simple answer, that anyone who has read Sherlock Holmes with enough attention could recall. Dr. Watson's name was John. A true Englishman, he seems to be a tribute to a tradition with his common name.



Musical eXpert

Have you ever stumbled upon a piece of music without drums? A dreadful experience! I once bought a disc by someone called Bach. I thought it was German techno or something, but it turned out to be some kind of strange ambient arpeggios. Fear ambient - most of it is even without hihats! Mozart is a guy who fools you with the dynamics, but all you get are empty melodies - no bass, no drums!

My friend Snare says that classics can be made listenable if you hire a dj to put some beats over it. He tried it with Grieg and says that this guy lacks a drum machine to really become normal music. But let's not blame musicians, who had no techniques to do beautiful stuff. They did their best with what they had, although my friend Bass says that you could do a normal trance drum if you hit piano with the piano chair from a certain angle. Of course, there is a small side effect - a 6 minute trance track will destroy the instrument completely. But I think we should be more keen on art than on the financial side of things, shouldn't we?

Your musical eXpert,
Bob.

An interview with xTr1m.

Q: Hi! Nice to have you with us! Before we go deep, tell me - what is the reason you switched to Reason? Do you know what you've done to the MPT community by abandoning Modplug Tracker?!

A: Hi, thanks for giving me this chance. Well there are many reasons for me switching to Reason. But let me tell you first, that for me "switching" is not "abandoning". If I decide to make another big song, I will surely use Reason because it has a large sound bank, and it's much more easier to control sound with knobs than with effect letters in a tracker. You can also apply all sort of effects and control the sound of your track with this all in one program, without needing to get external modules. I know that the MPT community has lost many people, but as I said, I have not abandoned it. I still use OpenMPT for OHCs for example, or if I really want to do something quick. I still use OpenMPT to listen to my favourite tracks I collected over the years.



Q: Okay, now let's go deep. What are your darkest secrets? Yeah, I know you won't tell. But, seriously, our on-line images are often quite far from what we are. Can you describe yourself - like a portrait of xTr1m in real life?

A: Hmm, my darkest secrets? Perhaps the right answer to that question is, that my darkest secret is a dark secret. I'm a very mysterious person, always curious about my surroundings, always looking everywhere and listening to everything, without the world ever noticing that I am there. I consider myself an observer.

I observe how people behave in this world, and I keep analysing all my data. This has led to myself understanding humans more than others. I've always been the guy who helps out if someone's feeling down and sad. I've always been the one who understands and listens when there seemed to be nobody else. And that's also practically xTr1m.

Everywhere, not missing any single spot.

Q: In some of your tracks you use drums. Why?

A: Why not? I can do fine with some strings, bells, and flutes and do some orchestral songs. I just guess that exotic drum patterns give my songs more life. In fact, today either you use no drums and make ambient, or you use drums and make something else. I personally like some light drums to give more color to my songs. Not too much and not too little.

Q: There are rumours that you go for all kinds of extreme sports. How did you manage to stay alive after all this mountain climbing and stuff? Is it true that you invented a new kind of extreme sporting?

A: Well I almost fell over in my last attempt to climb the Avila mountain in Venezuela. But mountain climbing is one sort of extreme sports. You must understand that there always two extremes. Too bad that noone has ever invented sports of the other extreme, like speed-mouse-clicking, blind-10-finger-o-type and beer-lifting. I really enjoy doing these last three.

Q: You say that when it comes to composing you try to make your songs very complex. Comment on this, please.

A: Complex as in stuffed with loads of ideas, very compact. I try to give every single note a meaning. I place all my notes in such a way that each and everyone of them does what they have to do. When I make a song, I first sit down and think of what I want my song to express. Having an image of that, I start to choose exactly what chord combinations, what notes, what sounds, what drums should I use, and so on. In my songs there is only one possibility, and nothing more. You change one note and the song is broken.

Q: Listening to your music, I couldn't stop realizing that most of your works tend to be of mixed style. If it's trance, it has a lot from ambient/chillout and vice versa. What music influences you as a composer? Do you feel that you've captured your individual style?

A: Yes, your observations are correct. I like to mix styles a lot. I think that mixing genres creates music never heard before. But that's not the only base of creativity. But if I try to do trance, demostyle or chip, I can't help to put in the genre that is in my nature, which is ambient/chillout or fantasy. So there will always be a mix in my song. You'll always hear fantasy influences.

The music that influences me as a composer, is similar. I really do love Vangelis compositions, movie soundtracks, ambient/fantasy songs I find over at CTG (there are very good ones out there), or from the old scene.

And about having captured my individual style, I guess yes. I've never found any music out there that resembles the songs I have made, and if I make another one, there will be resemblance to my prior ones.

Q: You've been using MIDI for quite a long time. Do you know that MIDI in fact stands for Making It Damn Interesting? I couldn't believe it either. But the question that I address you is this, though - you are a good piano player. Ever considered playing in a live band?

A: I've started making music with a piano and later with some crappy MIDI program on the PC. Yes, I've used it for a long time, but I was an unexperienced child. I did enter to the digital music world with it, but never accomplished anything right. I never really liked the turnouts. But when I got to know trackers, I instantly realized that I'd be using

them from that time on. But now that the application of MIDI has expanded so widely, I might consider using it regularly again.

And yes, as a piano player I've played often on bands. School bands to be more precise, we had many live concerts. We played music from the 70-90's. I really enjoyed that. Improvising in blues and rock and roll is what I can do best. Nowadays I don't have much time for a band, now with my studies and stuff. I barely find time to practice the piano, but I still do.

Q: Are there any special musical projects you are working on now?

A: Yes, the masterpiece I am practicing now. I want to play the Piano Concerto No. 3 from Rachmaninoff. I'm sure it'll take one year till I've got it ready. And then I must find one orchestra that will take me to interpret that piece and play it live. If I succeed on this, I might consider myself a professional piano player. I might even record it.

Q: Wow! That sounds promising. By the way, let's touch upon your education cause it also sounds promising. You are a student of informatics and it is widely known that informatics is a subject where they teach people to program games. Have you played video games a lot and what is your state of playing now? Why did you go for informatics in the first place? Is it true you plan to make Mario games?

A: Apart from my obsession for music, I've always been a fanatic of computers. With the age of 8 years I was confronted with an 386 pc with Turbo Pascal, and without any help from outside I independently started learning to program. It's been one of my hobbies, to shape my pc exactly the way I like it. That's why I decided to professionalize on this aspect. I'd have chosen music, if there were more chances of successfully making a decent life with it. But I chose to leave music as a secondary option. I will merge both together in the future. I can learn Studio techniques in my informatics career, so I could be the next one mixing your live recordings.

Q: Okay, I think our readers will consider it;) Hey, well thanks for the exTr1mly wonderful interview! But before you go - our traditional question. Do you agree that garbage literature is preferable because not only you can read it, but also wrap stuff in it?

A: Garbage literature is always good if it's free or at least cheap. First, you have something to do if you're bored (read). Second, you have something to do if you're bored (tear it in pieces very slowly) or you have something to do if you're bored (see how well it flies out of your window). But if you are not bored, yes, it's good for wrapping stuff in it, or even better: if you're in the jungle and you really have to go, but don't have anything to wipe yourself afterwards, garbage literature becomes your best friend! So yes, it's preferable, in all ways. Thanks for the questions, and good luck with your newspaper.

Short Story.

Dr. Watson hated the bakery. For one thing, he had to stand in line. The other thing, even more frustrating, is that the bakery was right in front of their house, so Holmes peered through the binoculars at it and then greeted Watson with observations. For example, last week he told Watson all about the people he was standing in line with and based it on Watson's dirty shoes.

However, this time Sherlock was preoccupied with a visitor and when Watson entered their sitting-room, he saw a good looking young man sitting in an armchair opposite Holmes. His face was anxious, in his hands he was nervously torturing a small piece of paper.

-I am a business man, I work in a bank for more then 7 years now. But lately I've been getting those damn anonymous letters. All of them are odd and seem like a joke, but then it all happens!

-Be more precise, - said Holmes crossly, - otherwise I feel myself a fool and we got Watson for that.

-Well, look. Last weekend I got a letter: "Dear Mr. Stapple, you will loose an apple."

-Yeah. And?

-And I lost it! Yesterday someone stole my apple!

Can you believe it? Or here's another one, arrived last month: "Dear Mr. Berry, you will loose a cherry." And I lost it too! A couple of days later I was robbed - one of the cherries from my pie was gone!

-What a disaster! - concluded Holmes.

Young man pulled out a big heap of small papers from his pocket.

-Here are the rest of them: "Dear Mr. Dorange, you will loose an orange", "Dear Mr. Stumm, you will loose some plum", "Dear Mr. Dwine, you will loose a lime"...

-That's enough, - said Holmes. - Let me see those letters.

The famous dedective took one of the papers and carefully examined it with a magnifying glass. While doing that, he was significantly humming to himself. Watson and the young man patiently waited and at last Holmes said:

-That helped a lot. Now we can make certain conclusions. A logical chain reaction will lead us straight to the criminal.

-How is that possible? - exclaimed the young man.

-Elementary! For example, the letters are written on a piece of paper, so clearly we can state that the author is NOT an Egyptian.

-Not an Egyptian? Why?

-An Egyptian would have used parchment instead of paper.

-Oh...

-Do you have any non-Egyptian colleagues?

The young man seemed to be puzzled:

-Yeah, most of them, actually.

-Good, - said Holmes. - Let's go further.

As he continued, Watson rolled up his eyes and sighed.

-You probably haven't noticed that the lines of every letter are rhymed, - said Holmes. - That gives us strong evidence on the profession of the criminal.

-Really? - said the young man with hope.

-Sure. If the lines are rhymed, it is obvious that the author of the letters is a poet.

-Oh...

-Do you have any non-Egyptian poet friends?

-Um... I'm not really sure. I know a couple of guys who like writing poems on special occasions...

-Well, you have to find that out, - assured him Holmes. - But we can go even further. If you noticed, in every letter the criminal addresses you with a different name. So he most definitely suffers from sclerosis. Usually this happens with older people. He also pathologically loves fruits. Do you know any old non-Egyptian poets who love fruits?

The young man concentrated and thought for some time.

-Well, my boss is far from being young, he likes an orange now and then, he reads Shakespeare and he is not from Egypt. My friend Timothy is also real close to such a description, other than he is my age...

-There you go! - said Holmes solemnly.

The young man smiled, but didn't seem satisfied. He confusedly turned to Watson and whispered:

-I'm not really sure it's my boss - he is rich and can buy lots of fruit himself.

Watson shook his head and said:

-Holmes, the description is too general. Can you give more detail?

Holmes stopped puffing with his smoking pipe and grinned:

-Everyone wants the impossible... Well, let's try... The legendary detective took another glance at the letters and after some thinking said:

-This guy used a lot of paper. And lots of ink too. He must be very rich.



Afterwards Watson often wondered whether it was luck or loud whisper, but the only evidence he had was that 'whisper' has an 'h', hence it can be 'heard'.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



Scientists from the Casual Relationship Research Center finally proved that

-What do cats dream of?-

It is a funny thing about cats - they have to get a lot of sleep. Facts are, a healthy cat life is 18-19 hours of everyday sleep. And if nature designed cats to be like that, what may be the reason?

The best answer for this is: "Nobody knows". Cats are one of the most mysterious animals on our planet. They purr and nobody really knows how. They can heal and nobody really knows their ways. They have nine lives, big eyes and an attitude.

Here's an extract from <http://animalvoice.com> - "The Felid Purr: A healing mechanism?"

After analysis of the data, we discovered that cat purrs create frequencies that fall directly in the range that is anabolic for bone growth.

The dominant and fundamental frequency for three species of cats' purrs is exactly 25 Hz, or 50 Hz the best frequencies for bone growth and fracture healing. All of the cats purrs all fall well within the 20 - 50 Hz anabolic range, and extend up to 140 Hz.. All the cats, except the cheetah have a dominant or strong harmonic at 50 Hz.

The harmonics of three cat species fall exactly on or within 2 points of 120 Hz which has been found to repair tendons. One species within 3 Hz and one within 7 Hz.

Eighteen to thirty-five Hz is used in therapeutic biomechanical stimulation for joint mobility. Considering the small size of many of these cats, especially the domestic cats, it is interesting to note that all of the individual cats, have dominant frequencies within this range. In fact, some of the cats, have 2-3 harmonics in this range.

The frequencies for therapeutic pain relief are from 50-150 Hz. All of the individual cats have at least 5 sets of strong harmonics in this range.

Therapeutic frequencies for the generation of muscle strength lie between 2-100 Hz. All of the individual cats have at least 4 sets of strong harmonics in this range.

Therapy for COPD uses 100 Hz, all of the individual cats have a dominant frequency of exactly 100 Hz.

There is another clue found in a study performed by Dr. T. F. Cook, (1973) The relief of dyspnoea in cats by purring, New Zealand Veterinary Journal. A dying cat who could not breathe (they were considering euthanasia), was found to breathe normally once it began purring. The purring opened up the cat's airway, and improvement was "remarkable and the next day commenced to eat..." Three species of cats have a strong harmonic at exactly 100 Hz, the vibrational frequency found to relieve dyspnea. One species within 2 Hz and one species within 7 Hz of 100 Hz. It could be that the cat's purr decreases the breathlessness by vibratory stimulation.

It is suggested that purring be stimulated as much as possible when cats are ill or under duress. If purring is a healing mechanism, it may just help them to recover faster, and perhaps could even save their life.

All of the above is just a hypothesis. But keep in mind that the mechanism of purring itself is also unknown! Here's an extract from <http://www.craftycat.co.uk>

Purring first occurs in kittens that are only a few days old. It is a signal given to the mother as the kittens suckle to indicate that 'all is well'. The mother, in response, will purr back to increase the kittens sense of security and contentment.

The purr is the most significant vocal sound that a cat makes as far as humans are concerned, and we normally perceive the purr to indicate happiness and contentment. Whilst this is true, injured or fearful cats are also known to purr. These varied uses of the purr are thought to indicate in an injured or fearful cat a need for help and a way of saying 'I am helpless and no threat to you' and in the happy cat, a sense of contentment.

There are many theories on how a cat actually physically purrs. One favoured theory is that the cat contracts the larynx and the diaphragm that then produce the purr. Another theory, the 'false vocal cord', suggests that it is in fact the vibration of false vocal cords that sit behind the larynx. The third theory is that as blood passes the liver and diaphragm this causes purring in the cats chest and not through any vocal noises. This theory is called 'turbulent blood'.

Of all these theories the 'false vocal' approach is much more favoured and if you have listened to your cat and put your fingers on his throat it really does seem that the noise is omitted from the voice box area. However, the debate continues!

So as you see, cats are full of mysteries. What do cats dream of? They most obviously dream of their secrets, secrets that no one will find out.

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