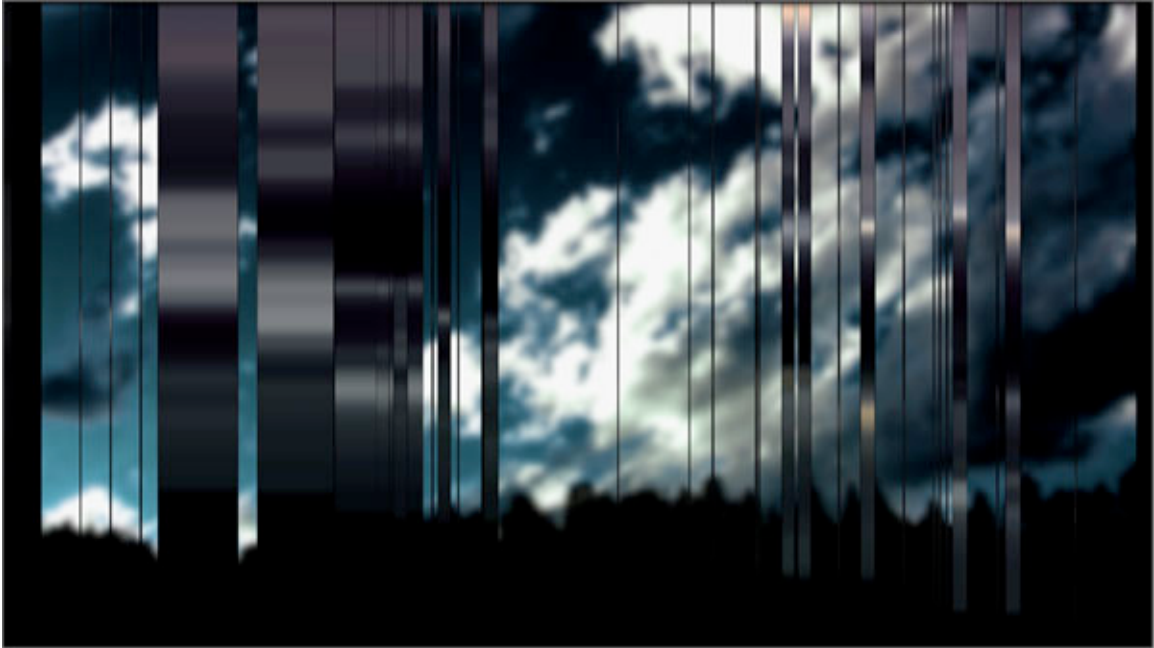


RUSTCYCLE

PRESS KIT 2008



Introduction

Rustcycle blends aspects of trance, ambient electronica, house, classical influences, and rock to form a soundscape that is emotionally evocative.

Rustcycle is a music and media project lead by Adrian Johnson. During live performances Johnson switches between DJing and remixing his arrangements, playing electric violin and electric guitar, and occasionally VJing or using custom interaction software that takes video input. During concerts the project often manifests as a solo act, sometimes as a performance group involving instrumentalists and vocalists, but always as a genre-challenging experience.

Awards and Highlights

2008

“Workaholics Autonomous” is scheduled for summer release. This combo DVD/CD will feature a 5.1 surround mix on the DVD as well as ambient visuals created by Johnson’s thesis-related software.

Interviewed in Skope Magazine. Featured on CD sampler for Under the Radar Magazine.

2007

International collaborations. Johnson performed in Whitby, England and Frankfurt, Germany.

Masters degree in Computer Science, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Johnson’s Masters thesis was directed towards creating immersive virtual sculpture animations for conveying nuances of music and was entitled “Aesthetic Emergence in Synesthetic Sculptures.”

2006

Performance at Vegas Music Conference. Rustcycle was chosen from among 400 artists coming from 8 countries who applied to perform.

Johnson presented “Complexity and Music Generation” at GECCO 2006 (Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference). The biologically inspired software created by Johnson allows for artificial-life driven emergence of orchestrations and track mixing.

2005

“Daisho” album released.

2004

Remix project for Portugese guitar virtuoso Alexandre Caetano.

Johnson presented “Music as an Input Device” at the IEEE VR 2004 conference, discussing a means of visualizing music in a studio environment and generating artistic visuals by using music as an input device. The paper was co-authored by one of his professors, Dr Sudhanshu Semwal.

2003

Rustcycle was an Independent Music Awards finalist. The track “Anti-Gravity” was in the top 5 songs in the contest's electronica category. The judges for the IMAs were Steve Vai, Lou Reed, DJ Spooky, Joan Baez, Mavis Staples, Mickey Hart, Amy Ray, Ray Davies, Wendy Waldman, and Hank Shocklee.

2002

“Twin Arcs” album released.

Apple Computer profile. The interview with Johnson appeared on Apple's site as well as the Netscape homepage.

2001

First international collaboration: a remix for French pop singer Ysa Ferrer.

Foundations

To understand Johnson's obsession with music and blending genres, one needs only to look to his past. As a child Johnson suffered with countless ear infections, 4 eardrum ruptures, and 7 ear surgeries. A period of substantial conductive hearing loss changed Johnson's life when he had to read lips to understand his parents. When surgeries re-introduced Johnson to the auditory world, he became determined to never be exiled from it again.

Johnson played viola in grades 4-10 then switched to electric guitar almost exclusively for 2 years. The syncopated harmony lines practiced for years on viola complemented the guitar's melodic role. Johnson began arranging and recording guitar and synthesizer compositions when he started college in 1999, taking a few music theory classes along the way. He picked up electric 5-string violin in 2004 to expand his tonal palette and bring strings back into focus.

Influences and Allusions

Rustcycle has been described as “A blend of Hybrid, BT, Moby, Satriani and Nine Inch Nails” and for good reason. Johnson's influences are varied, including those named and others who have innovated in order to push their genres' boundaries.

Between the Lines

Johnson's music is first and foremost an avenue for personal expression, but there are other motivations. Rustcycle is a means of encouraging others to get up and create something new. Johnson has presented at the University of Colorado to inspire musicians to look at math and science's tools in new ways and for technologists to respect the communicativeness of art and music. Through the VJ content, Rustcycle is a means of getting public exposure for emergent behavior research.

Johnson is a software engineer and researcher at a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) and aspires to continue interdisciplinary work in the vein of inventor / musician / engineer / futurist Kurzweil.

Contact

For booking, remixes, project proposals and correspondence contact Adrian Johnson.

(719) 238-2525 | rustcycle.com | adrian42@gmail.com

Rustcycle
PO Box 16752
Colorado Springs, CO 80935
USA