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Notes from editor (not for publication):

I'm so glad your work for us planted the seed for this amazing event!

With Rolf and Cynthia splitting up, Rolf changed his name on Facebook to Rolf Parker. Is this something he would want here?

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 'There are as many ways to make music as there are
2 musicians'

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3 Circuits in the Woods, an electronic music festival in
4 Brattleboro, will honor Vermont's contribution to modern music
5 with more than 20 performances, two lectures, two hands-on
6 events, a space opera, and good old beeps and boops

####END SUBHED####

7 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

8 ELECTRONIC MUSIC returns to its ancestral home on
9 Saturday, Nov. 15, when Brattleboro welcomes Circuits in the

10 Woods, an all-day electronic music festival that features two
11 lectures, two hands-on events, and 20-plus musicians playing a
12 variety of genres of music in four downtown venues.

13 The festival takes place from noon to midnight and
14 honors Vermont's importance to electronic music by following
15 the ley lines that begin at the old Estey Organ Company on Birge
16 Street in Brattleboro, track north to the former workshop of New
17 England Digital in White River Junction, bounce back down
18 through Putney, and finally land back in Brattleboro.

19 I am co-producing the event with Eric Gagne of Nova
20 Arts, Stage 33 Live SynthFest organizer Joseph Conrad, and music
21 software developer Chris Randall.

22 Part of my inspiration for Circuits in the Woods are two
23 articles I wrote for *The Commons* in 2015, which detailed
24 Vermont's importance to the origins of electronic music.

25 In one of these articles, "[Switched on Bode](#)" [Arts, Feb.
26 11, 2015], I told the story of the invention of the analog
27 synthesizer, which was completed in Brattleboro in the late
28 1950s by Harald Bode. Bode came to Brattleboro from Germany
29 to work for the Estey Organ Company.

30 The second article, "[The Synclavier: Born in Vermont](#),"
31 [Arts, Feb. 11, 2015], takes place some 60 miles north, where the
32 Synclavier was developed in 1977 from a collaboration between
33 electronic music pioneer Jon Appleton and White River Junction-
34 based New England Digital.

35 As former New England Digital employee Matt Bucy told
36 me, "Pretty much, for better or for worse, the sound of the 1980s
37 came from White River Junction."

38 * * *

39 BY FEATURING electronic musicians from Vermont and
40 northern New England — and by welcoming performers from
41 farther afield — we aim to remind audiences that Vermont is not
42 frozen in time. The people in the Green Mountain State are not
43 an anachronism, puttering along behind everyone else.

44 Circuits in the Woods is an acknowledgment that there
45 are as many ways to make music as there are musicians. The
46 common denominator of the entire festival: All of the musicians
47 will use electronic instruments in some way, either as the primary
48 source, or as a way to manipulate acoustic instruments, field
49 recordings, audio samples, or their voices.

50 Many genres will be represented at Circuits in the
51 Woods: ambient, darkwave, power pop, synth pop, yacht-rock-
52 jazz-pop, funky psych, psych improv, noise rock, post-rock, a
53 space opera, and good old bleeps and bleeps.

54 * * *

55 HEADLINING THE EVENT are two acts who incorporate
56 synthesizers and effects-pedals into their funky, improvised,
57 psychedelic music: Jeffrey Alexander and The Heavy Lidders,
58 hailing from Philadelphia, and Guilford's own Wet Tuna.

59 Other musicians planning to perform include Burial
60 Woods, Countermoon, Doc No, Glasspack, Chris Hinkle,
61 MMMM, Scott Moore, Thomas Nöla, Rolf Parker-Houghton,
62 Christian Puffer, Chris Randall, Trevor Robinson, Jay Sullivan,
63 Verlectric (The Vermen's synth-pop spin-off), and members of The
64 Vermont Synthesizer Society. (This lineup is subject to change.)

65 Charles Dodge, early composer of electronic and
66 computer music, founder of the Brooklyn College Center for
67 Computer Music, longtime professor at Dartmouth College, and
68 recently retired former co-owner of the Putney Mountain Winery,
69 will present a lecture on his work and play selections from some
70 of his compositions.

71 Brattleboro-based electronic musician Caldon Glover
72 will present "The Queer Roots of Industrial," a lecture with audio
73 samples. He will cover the early days of the industrial scene in
74 the 1970s and 1980s and how it connects to contemporary
75 experimental music scenes.

76 Badweatherfriend, a southeastern-Vermont duo
77 comprised of Calvin Ray Moen and Wyatt Andrews, will perform

78 portions of their space opera, a work in progress called *The*
79 *Adventures of Space Guy*.

80 At the record shop Turn It Up!, Bellows Falls musician
81 Trevor Robinson will guide the synth-curious at “The Synth
82 Petting Zoo,” one of the hands-on components of Circuits in the
83 Woods. You can try different electronic instruments and create
84 your own music.

85 And bringing the entire festival full-circle is an audience-
86 participation performance by Ron Schneiderman, who has
87 released 14 albums to date of tones he recorded on an Estey Field
88 Organ. At Tavernier Chocolates, Schneiderman will be playing
89 the field organ live while the audience joins in, all while his
90 previous recordings stream from their smartphones.

91 We want to bring people together in a positive way: by
92 sharing music, seeing old friends, making new friends, supporting
93 downtown Brattleboro businesses, and honoring Vermont’s
94 contribution to modern music.

95 Come say hello. It will be fun.

96 * * *

97 FESTIVAL PASSES are being sold on a limited basis at
98 novaarts.org. A pass, which guarantees admission to all events at
99 all four venues, is \$40, plus a \$4.52 fee.

100 Attendees may also purchase a day pass for individual
101 events at any of the venues by donation, cash only, on a sliding-
102 scale basis on the day of the festival. At-event admission is
103 standing room only. No one will be turned away due to lack of
104 funds.

105 In the spirit of mutual aid, and to acknowledge the
106 increase in our community’s hunger due to decisions made by
107 people we elected into office, Circuits in the Woods is including
108 a food drive at the event. All attendees are strongly encouraged to
109 bring one or more non-perishable food items. Volunteers will
110 collect them at all four festival venues and donate to FoodWorks.

111 Circuits in the Woods features 20 musicians, two
112 lectures, and two hands-on components at four downtown

113 Brattleboro venues: Turn It Up! at 85 Main St., 118 Elliot at 118
114 Elliot St., Marigold at 157 Main St., and Tavernier Chocolates at
115 128 Main St. For a complete lineup, visit citw.online or
116 novaarts.org.

117 Circuits in the Woods is able to welcome everyone,
118 regardless of their ability to pay, and compensate the performers,
119 and cover operating expenses thanks to generous sponsorships.

120 Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) will record
121 most of the festival for later streaming on brattleborotv.org.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

122 **WENDY M. LEVY** is a longtime radio disc jockey and
123 occasional reporter for *The Commons*. Levy formerly graced the
124 airwaves at two Windham County community radio stations:
125 WVEW and WOOL. She hosts “Wreck Your Own Adventure,” a
126 weekly program on WFMU’s [Give the Drummer Radio](#) stream.

127 *The Commons’* Deeper Dive column gives nonprofits
128 and other community-focused endeavors in the region elbow
129 room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated,
130 passionate and analytical about their own creative work and
131 events.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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