

[Music Talk: Jamey Robinson](#) [1]

October 24, 2022 [TW Podcast](#) [2]

[Music](#) [3]

[Creative Lifer](#) [4]

Podcast Interview with John Vogel

A Lifelong Musician Lays out His Path

Also available on [Apple Podcasts](#) [5], [Spotify](#) [6], [iHeartRadio](#) [7], and [elsewhere](#) [8].



Episode Notes: As part of my *Perfect Recognition* project, I interviewed Philadelphia musician Jamey Robinson about his development as an artist. Jamey has toured the world playing in bands like the avant garde collective Need New Body and the junkyard experimental band Man Man, and works on his own music under the name Buffalo Stance. I was lucky enough to join Man Man on tour in 2011 playing in the Philadelphia orchestral pop band Grandchildren, as well as playing guest trumpet onstage for a couple of Man Man's songs.



Jamey and I also played together in a performance of drummer Chris Powell's Adventuredrum in 2012. Chris and Jamey have played in several bands together over the years, including Bent Leg Fatima, Need New Body, and Man Man. Adventuredrum gathers a large ensemble of drummers to perform free improvisational pieces loosely structured on a single simple drum pattern. In the performance I joined, there were about 20 drummers, keyboards, bass, and a small horn section.

I interviewed Chris and Jamey together in late 2011 for my *Weird Music* project, where they explained how they and their bandmates succumbed to the siren songs of Sun Ra Arkestra in the late 1990s:

Chris: That was one of the main things that sold me on moving here; I remember seeing the Sun Ra Arkestra in Rittenhouse Square and it totally changed my life. I saw it, I was like, “Oh wow, okay. If this is what’s going on in Philly I want to be here, because that’s killer.”

Jamey: Come to find out it’s *not* what’s going on but then we *make* something going on.

Chris: Yeah, but then we ended up moving here and we worked here and next thing you know, a few years later we’re recording with guys from the Arkestra.

For this interview, I talked to Jamey in his West Philadelphia apartment. The musical accompaniment is taken from the 2009 album *Sugar Glider* by Buffalo Stance, used with Jamey’s permission in this podcast episode.

— John Vogel

Some of Jamey's Recent Favorites

- Show: [Melt Banana at the First Unitarian Church](#) [9], Philadelphia, October 20, 2022.
- Album: [Meridian Brothers & El Grupo Renacimiento](#) [10] (Ansonia Records, 2022).
- Song: “[My Life's All Right](#) [11]” by Shira Small (The Numero Group, 1974).

Publishing Information for this Episode

- [Sugar Glider](#) [12] by Buffalo Stance on Bandcamp (self-released, 2009); used by permission.
- [Life Fantastic](#) [13] by Man Man (Anti Inc., 2011).
- [On Oni Pond](#) [14] by Man Man (Anti Inc., 2013).
- “[Where the Streets Have No Name](#) [15]” by U2, from *The Joshua Tree* (Island Records, 1987).



John Vogel is a musician and writer in Philadelphia. He is the art director for *Talking Writing* and creator of the multimedia project *Weird Music*. Aside from his TW work, he has served as a reviews editor for independent magazines as well as a linguistic annotator and a member of the Philly band Grandchildren. He's also a stay-at-home dad.

For more information, visit [John Vogel's Vimeo page](#) [16] and his [Eddie Sids Vimeo page](#) [17].

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Links:

- [1] <https://talkingwriting.com/music-talk-jamey-robinson>
- [2] <https://talkingwriting.com/taxonomy/term/2095>
- [3] <https://talkingwriting.com/tw-issue-themes/music>
- [4] <https://talkingwriting.com/taxonomy/term/2085>
- [5] <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/jamey-robinsons-path-through-music/id1650075290?i=1000583589677>
- [6] <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6sjmjlWN1Jd2B4CGa3KXA>
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- [8] <https://rss.com/podcasts/talkingwriting/652046/?listen-on=true>
- [9] <https://r5productions.com/event/melt-banana/>
- [10] <https://meridianbrothers.bandcamp.com/album/meridian-brothers-el-grupo-renacimiento>
- [11] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUCYq6tG9Kw>
- [12] <https://buffalostance.bandcamp.com/album/sugar-glider>
- [13] <https://www.anti.com/releases/life-fantastic/>
- [14] <https://www.anti.com/releases/oni-pond/>
- [15] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FsrPEUt2Dg>
- [16] <https://vimeo.com/johnlvogel>
- [17] <https://vimeo.com/eddiesids>