

BOCA CHICA



ePop 016:
Boca Chica

EardrumsPop

EardrumsPop releases free digital singles of their favourite artists. Every single will include 2 original songs and in addition a cover-version of a song they think deserves more attention. The cover art will be made by our favourite illustrators, and we like to see the single as a split-release between the band and the illustrator.

The singles will vary in style, from acoustic folk-songs to noisy indiepop, everything in between and more, but always warm and melodic.

Tracks:

1. For Jacob with Malaria
2. Afternoon Tea
3. You're the Blues

»» Track 1 and 2 written by Boca Chica. Track 3 written by Nik & the Central Plains.
Arrangement and performance of tracks 1 and 3 by Boca Chica, and track 2 by Boca Chica and Lohio.

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Introduction to the artist: Boca Chica

Boca Chica is an orchestral twang pop band from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Led by songwriter Hallie Pritts, their songs are dark, catchy, and combine somewhat surreal lyrics and instrumentation with bar band appeal. Drawing influences from classic country stars, Boca Chica filters those twangy tendencies through a modern indie pop lens.



Photo by
Rebecca Chiappelli

About the band

Boca Chica is a band that thrives on collaboration and with this new EardrumsPop release they take it to a new level. Not only do these songs benefit from internal band collaboration, but each song represents a melding of minds-- be it with a writer like Jacob Liechty on »For Jacob with Malaria«, another band like Lohio on »Afternoon Tea«, or with another songwriter like Nik Westman on »You're the Blues«.

Boca Chica pushes the boundaries of what it means to be a »band«, having had more than 40 different members since their inception and their current lineup includes Hallie Pritts, Susanna Meyer, J. Vega, Ricky Moslen, James Hart, and Kraig Decker.

The Cover Art Designer: Anne Roecklein

Anne Roecklein is a creative professional living and working in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (US). Her work is about our attempts to know and understand the world through our desires. Her collage and assemblage pieces address relationships between original/reproduction, parts/whole, real/imaginary, and the visual impact of accumulation.

»» **Please tell us about the process of making the EardrumsPop-cover! Is this the way you usually work?**

I focused in on a section of a larger collage titled 'pop song' to make this cover. It's all based on the way I usually work, but tailored to Boca Chica, these new songs, and the needs of a record cover.

»» **Who / what are your greatest visual inspirations?**

There are many artists and designers who I respect, but I think it's more interesting to talk about the stuff that I see that sparks ideas, like: fishing lures, jelly fish, diatoms, neatly stacked produce at the grocery store, satellites, graphs — this list could get really long.

»» **Is music or other forms of art an inspiration? If so, what do you listen to?**

I love listening to music when I'm in the studio, usually with my huge, dorky headphones on. And music is incredibly inspirational to me. It's so direct, and emotional, and sometimes overwhelming. I want my work to have an impact like this but we experience visual things so differently, so much quieter usually. Music makes me think about mood in my own work, and makes me want to make big pieces with a lot of visual density. My current iPod favorites are all over the place: Luna, ELO, Ratatat, Electrelane, Camera Obscura, Stars, Band of Annuals, and Boca Chica, of course.

Read the full interview here:

<http://www.eardrumspop.com/about-2/our-illustrators/anne-roecklein/>

More of Anne's work can be seen here:

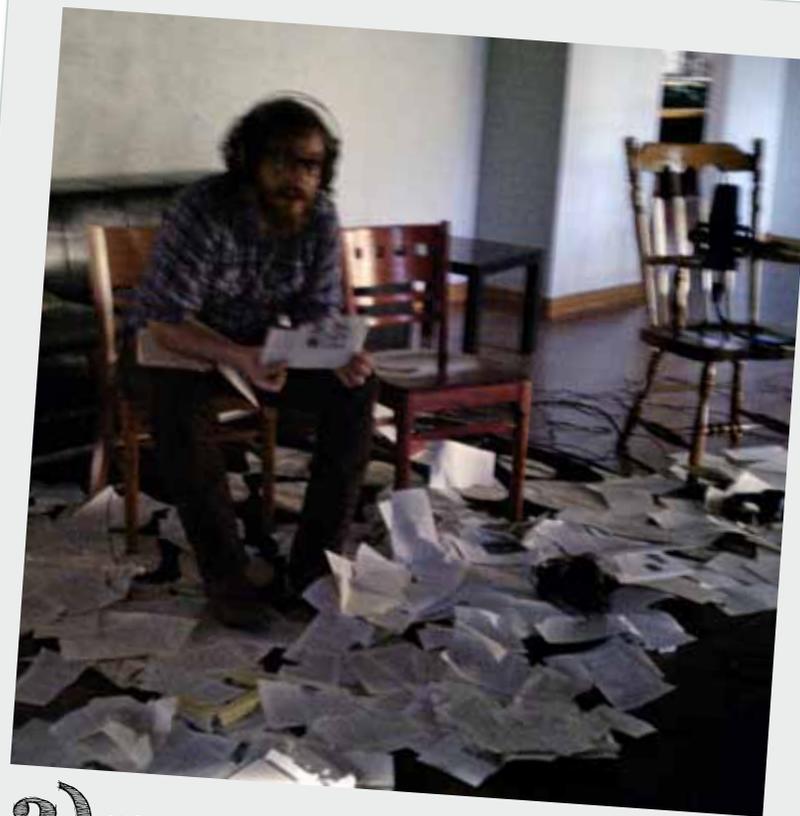
<http://www.anneroecklein.net>

Boca Chica — a photo interview:

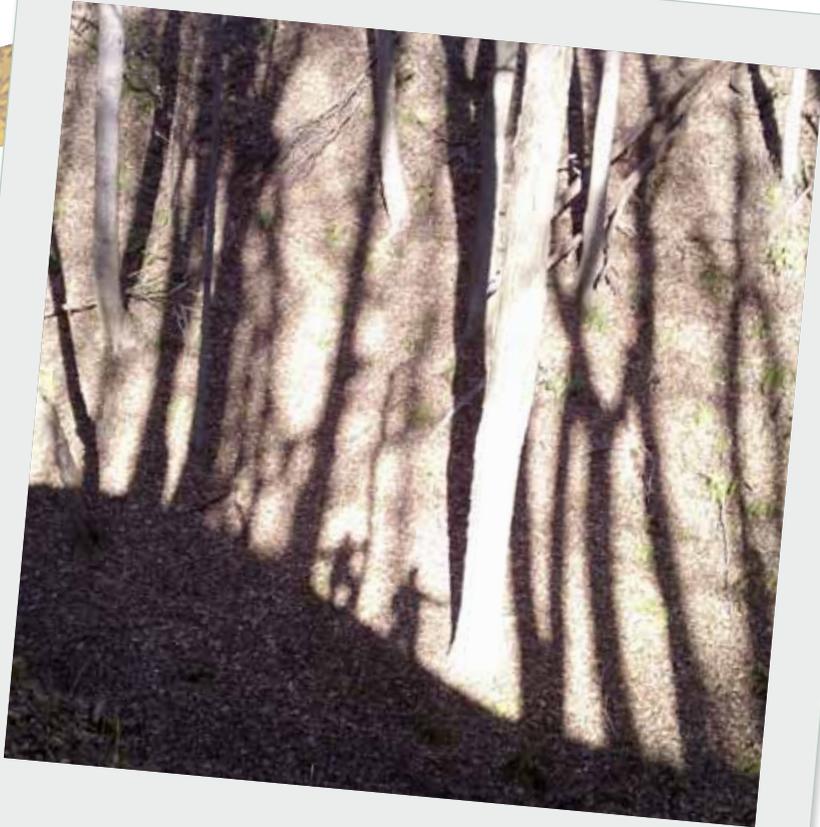
The innovative website [A Negative Narrative](http://www.anegativenarrative.com) has made photo-interviews with our single-artists. Visit www.anegativenarrative.com and see more bands' photographic answers to their interview questions. Here is A Negative Narrative's interview with Boca Chica:



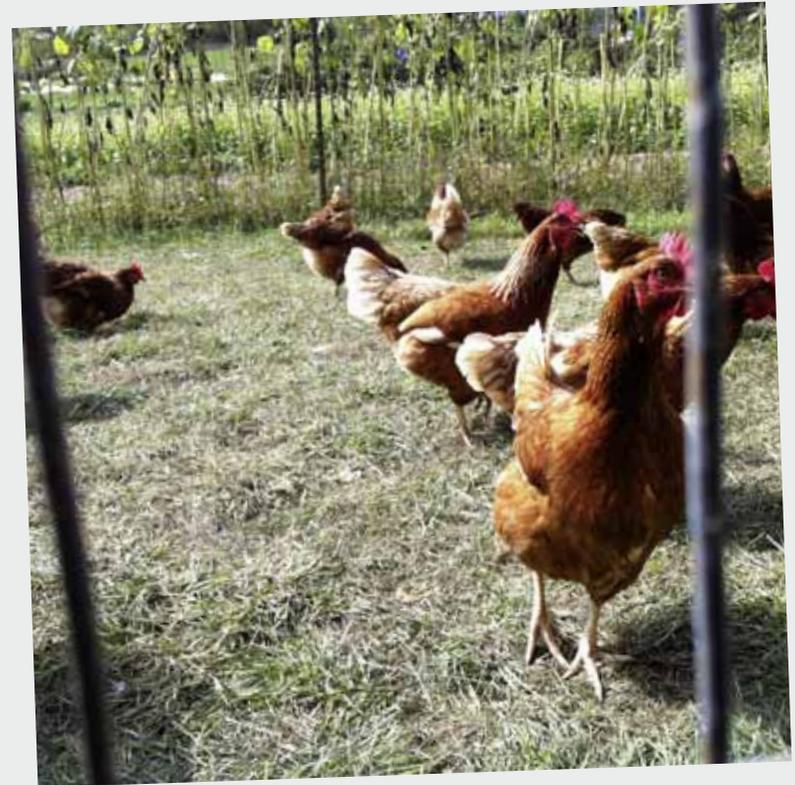
1) Take a photo of an ear, but make it real strange, artistic or unrecognisable.



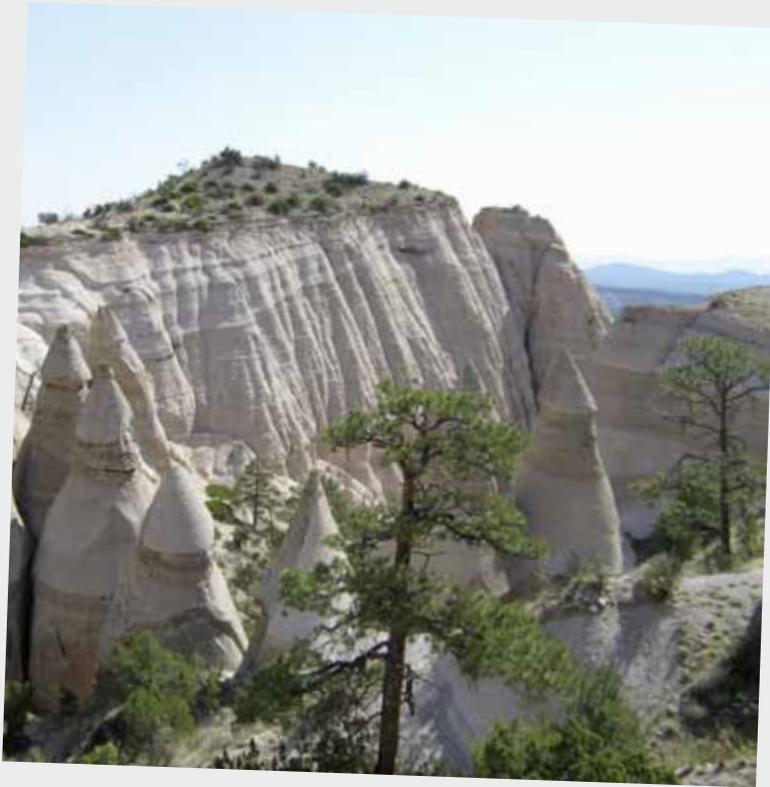
2) What's the most precious thing you'd smash up or break just for the purpose of taking a photo of it all broken and smashed for this interview?



3) Tell us a secret.



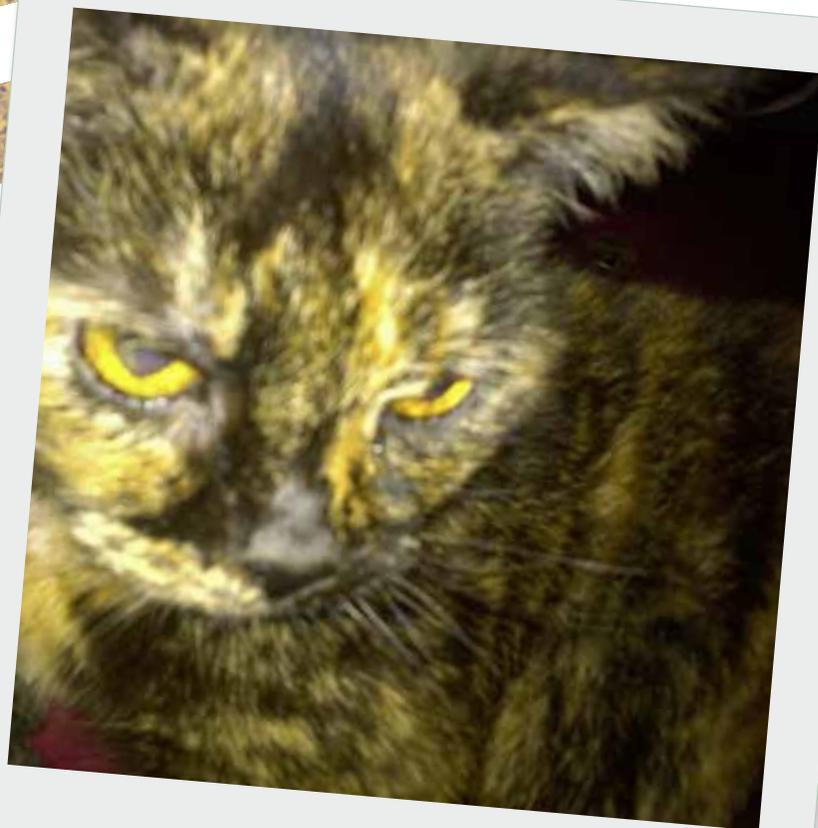
4) What does life mean to you?



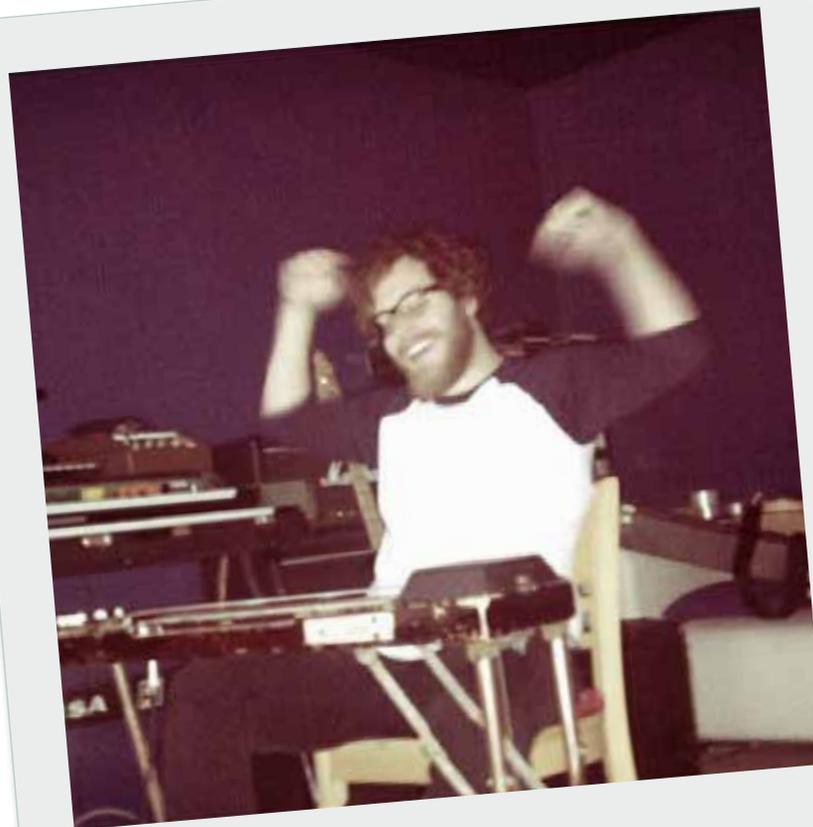
5) Define infinity.



6) How about a really colourful photograph?



7) Photograph someone who isn't expecting it.



8) What would your music look like if it was visible to the human eye?



9) What makes you really, really, stupidly happy?



10) Photograph something illegal or naked.

About the songs:

»For Jacob with Malaria«

This song was born out of the Boca Chica Kickstarter campaign of last fall. One of the rewards offered was the chance to commission a Boca Chica song on the topic of one's choice. Writer and artist Jacob Liechty of Denver, Colorado sent Hallie a story he had written about his time living in Mali. In particular, it was about getting malaria in Bamako and spending time in a clinic with another sick friend. He asked Hallie to write a song inspired by the story. The result is a decidedly hallucinatory folk track.

Written by Hallie Pritts / Inspired by and commissioned for Jacob Liechty /
Arranged and performed by Boca Chica / Produced and recorded by J. Vega at J Bird Studios

»Afternoon Tea«

Hallie wrote the song and arranged it with Lohio as the backing band. And then the other members of Boca Chica had at it with layers of gorgeously dark cacophony. The result is a 1960s-inspired piece of dark psych pop.

Written by Hallie Pritts / Arranged and performed by Boca Chica and Lohio (<http://www.lohiomusic.com>) /
Recorded by Jake Hanner at Play on Recordings

»You're the Blues«

Written by Nik Westman / Original recording by Nik & the Central Plains / Arranged and performed by Boca Chica /
Produced and recorded by J. Vega at J Bird Studios / <http://www.nikandthecentralplains.com>

The cover song: We have encouraged the single-bands to make a cover version of a song they think deserves more attention. Boca Chica have chosen to cover »You're the Blues«, originally performed by Nik & the Central Plains.

When Eardrums contacted Boca Chica about recording a cover song, they immediately thought of Nik Westman. Nik & the Central Plains are a twangy indie rock band from Pittsburgh, PA that play twang-influenced indie garage rock and Nik's songwriting is beyond brilliant. The tunes are driven by three guys and a 1982 Mercedes Benz and each song invites the listener to a story you haven't heard before.

Here is the original version of the song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioUfbT7dPQU>

Nik & the Central Plains

Nik & the Central Plains are a twangy indie rock band from Pittsburgh, PA. We do garage folk rock and roll. The tunes are driven by three guys and a 1982 mercedes benz. Each song invites the listener to a story you haven't heard before. We have one full length record which was released in March 2010 (It was chosen as 1 of the top 5 local releases of 2010 by Pittsburgh public radio station WYEP 91.3). We will be releasing our second full length record April 22 2011. The members of the band are: Nik Westman: guitar & vocals, Kraig Decker: bass & vocals and Colin Bronnenkant: drums. Visit us at <http://www.nikandthecentralplains.com>



Photo by Rebecca Chiappelli

About EardrumsPop, the label:

EardrumsPop is a net-label closely related to the music blog Eardrums. We love warm and melodic music of all kinds, we believe in beautiful things you can see and hear, and we believe in working together, helping each other and getting good music and good art out to the public. We do not believe in money, so all our releases are given away for free.

We HOPE that instead of supporting us, you can visit the websites of the bands you like, buy their releases, go to their concerts or just spread the word about these wonderful bands. All our releases are made in close collaboration with the artists and illustrators.

www.eardrumspop.com

Contributors to the project:

- »» The **booklet-template** is designed by Julia Pax. Visit Julia at www.visuellezeiten.de. You can also read our interview with her at www.eardrumspop.com/about-2/our-illustrators/julia-pax
- »» The **booklet** is put together in Adobe InDesign by Andrej Dolinka. Visit Andrej's blog here: dolinka.wordpress.com
- »» The **text in the booklet** is put together by the EardrumsPop team.
- »» The **project** is run and managed by the EardrumsPop-team, Stefan, Tim and Knut. Visit us at www.eardrumspop.com
- »» The **photo-interviews** are managed by the website A Negative Narrative www.anegativenarrative.com

If you want to participate in any way, either with music, art or help us with the project, please contact us at team@eardrumspop.com.

You can also join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/eardrumspop.

Next singles in this series:

» ePop017: TBA – 2011

If you enjoyed the single, please tell your friends about it! Write about it in your blog, on Facebook, Twitter, Last.fm etc. Play it on your radio show, your podcast or as loud as you can on your stereo with your windows open. Spread the word about the single and help us let lots of people hear it!

Thank you.