



# INTERVIEW WITH TAME ( THE ASPIRING ME)

At Beats and Beer on November 16th, TAME (short for The Aspiring ME) took the stage and donned a white lab coat and goggles, and announced "We are at Rice University – so we are going to do a little experiment." Our Special Programming Director, Ethan Hasiuk, caught up with TAME after the show and talked about music, life, death, and fruit snacks.

**Ethan Hasiuk:** Where does your name come from?

**Tame:** *D\*mn fruit snacks!* I always wanted to be myself... my dad was a rapper. *Look all that selection!* My dad was a rapper from Houston with the name Big Mello. He's like a fairly prominent rapper... So when I first started coming out, people used to call me Little Mello so much... My names initials are "A.D.D." so I started going by A.D.D. But what happened was

that there was this group from Dallas in 2011 called A.Dd+ and they had this project *WHEN PIGS FLY* and we both got booked to play South by Southwest, the same showcase. They had a little more clout than I did back then, and what happened is I got kicked out of the show because their booking agent was tripping, like "yo, you guys have the same name that'll confuse the market" so I got kicked off the show. Then the promoter, who is also like a mentor of mine said "hey man, you might want to change your name because this is something you don't want to repeat in the future. So we sat down. Me, the promoter, and my home boy Fat Tony, we sat down in the studio and chopped it up. I threw out a couple names, first it was "The Aspiring A.D.D." and they were like "No, that's



whack" and then I changed it to "The Aspiring Me." It was the name of the first project I came out with, and it has always been the name of my website.. So I kinda changed it over from there. *FRUIT SNAAAACKS! Shout out Black Forest! They make a pretty good sliced ham, too.*

**E:** It's the same company?

**T:** It better be, sh\*t.

**E:** I did not know that. Alright, what are your favorite spots in Houston to perform?



Tame performing in Willy's Pub - Beats and Beer 11/16/17 - Hania Nagy

**T:** It's kinda cliché, but I really love Willy's Pub and outside of Valhalla. Other than that, I like to do like unconventional spaces. I like to walk into a space that isn't usually used for performances and I like to curate the space. Like tomorrow, I

am doing this event for a punk band out of Brooklyn called Machine Girl and we're doing it out of Silver Street Studios.

E: What's your favorite thing about ktru?

T: Y'all always hold it down! My boy Big Heavy Kenny [Hip-Hop Show - Tuesdays 10-11], my brother, he was the first person to ever interview me on radio. He is a real standup guy. Every year there are new program directors but they always help me out. Like if someone falls through on sound, I can call my homies at ktru. You all support hella hard. It's like stupid crazy how much y'all support. It's tight as f\*ck. [<3 from ktru]

E: Aw, thanks dude. I'm going to miss it. What's your favorite song of yours and what is it about?

T: It's one of the last songs I performed, it's off my new project coming out on November 30th. The project is called *You might like this*, and the song is called "Always Lit." And it talks about drug abuse and how our culture and how people our age and younger really glorify drug abuse like it's really f\*cking cool, ya know what I'm saying? And people want to go really far places in their lives. And the song is like, you wanna go extremely far-- but you're hitting this point in life that's going to slow you all the way down both physically and mentally. It's sad when someone goes away, it's sad when it's an OD-- drug abuse, and it's especially sad when people champion around it. The whole thing is sad, the death is sad, the reaction is sad.

E: Alright, final question. To change the tone dramatically: If you were a muffin, what muffin would you be?

T: I would be a blueberry muffin, because those are my favorite muffins to get whenever I'm at Doshi House. Doshi House has the best blueberry muffins.



Poster by Lola Deng.

# KTRU CONCERT RECAP

## SWAR YATRA - 25 YEARS OF NAVRANG

On Sunday, September 10, KTRU presented *Swar Yatra - A Musical Journey*.

Varsha Vakil, who has now organized four South Asian music performances in her nine years as a DJ at KTRU, organized and

curated the event. This year's concert was particularly special in that it celebrated 50 years of radio at Rice University and 25 years of the Navrang radio show.

*Swar Yatra* was dedicated to former KTRU Station Manager Nick Schlossman, who originally invited Vakil to join KTRU and facilitated a shift in the then Bollywood-focused Navrang show to more diverse styles. Schlossman and fellow KTRU alumnus Katie Mayer were in attendance.



Monds. Navrang DJ Justin Lasiewicz joined Monds on tabla for the performance's conclusion, which fully demonstrated the rhythmic and sonic capabilities of each instrument.

Closing out the concert was internationally acclaimed Hindustani Classical vocalist Pandit Suman Ghosh, a disciple of Pandit Jasraj. Pandit

Ghosh presented a set of raaga that ranged from calm and contemplative to intense and intricate, demonstrating his versatile voice. Pandit Ghosh was accompanied by Hindole Majumdar on tabla. Apurva Ghosh and Prasun Kolhe, children and disciples of Pandit Ghosh, also accompanied the performance. Pandit Ghosh dedicated his performance, which he graciously donated to KTRU, to those affected by Hurricane Harvey and flooding events around the world.



It was beautiful to see artists, Rice students, and members of the Houston community gathered together in this way, brought together by music even during a time of pain and struggle.



The audience was first treated to an energetic performance from Gaura Karuna, the musical project of KTRU Navrang DJ Gaura Klein. Klein, accompanied by Ram Das on vocals and harmonium, presented his unique fusion of

soaring, Kirtan melodies and rapped verses over electronic beats.

The tone of the event then calmed significantly with a traditional sitar raag masterfully performed by Rice University Doctor of Musical Arts student Shane



All Swar Yatra photos - Hania Nagy

-Ethan Hasiuk

Ethan Hasiuk is Special Programming Director. He enjoys music, friendship, and hats.

# PEOPLE OF **ktru** GEORGE BARROW

*What is your role on the KTRU Board of Directors?*

I'm the station manager, which means that I oversee the department heads, set the agenda for board meetings, and set station-wide initiatives.



A look inside the station.

*What has been your best KTRU related memory?*

Every time I help initiate a productive brainstorm has really been the most

rewarding thing for me – watching people come up with fantastically creative ideas (like the idea for this zine!) is incredible.

*What have you learned through KTRU?*

I learned that I love rap and R&B, which George from four years ago would have never believed. In addition to just helping me become a more creative and open-minded person, ktru has also taught me some amazing soft skills like management, communication, and organization.

*What piece of advice do you have for anyone just starting listening to or DJing for KTRU?*

To listeners: if you don't like what you hear, try coming back in a couple of minutes. We try to play everything, which means that you're probably going to hate some of it, but if you keep tuning in, sometimes you'll find a real treasure. Also, check out our specialty shows if you're looking to learn about a particular kind of music!

To prospective djs: never think for a second that you "don't know enough about music" to dj. When I started djing I listened to like three bands that my dad got me into, but through ktru I've been introduced to this huge wide world of music. The important part isn't what you know, it's how much you want to find out -- as Dr. Marquez once told me, "You must have the passion, my friend".

*What have you been listening to lately?*

really like the new Big K.R.I.T. album, and still can't stop listening to Open Mike Eagle's album from a few months ago. Other than those it's mostly old sh\*t: Outkast and Lauryn Hill. I also still listen to Solange's A Seat at the Table all the way through at least once a week.

*If you were an animal, what animal would you be?*

Labrador retriever. I had a lab growing up, and I've just recently been realizing how similar we are. I'm hopelessly loyal to my friends, and start going kind of stir-crazy when people aren't getting along.

-Christian Capo

Christian Capo is the our Historian. He hates mayonnaise and has never been to the moon.

## CONCERT REVIEW

WILD MOCCASINS 10-19-17



Wild Moccasins @ Silver Street Studio 10/19/17 - Jahnvi Jagannath

Wild Moccasins are back! Thanks to some very hip corporate brand management, the band returned to the stage at an Austin Eastciders event to debut songs off their forthcoming album, proving once again that they are Houston's best-kept secret. The night started with a solid set from French Kids (thankfully no longer named Young Girls), but Wild Moccasins stole the show. While crowd-pleasing favorites like "Open Sesame" and "Sponge Won't Soak," sizzled with their familiar danceable grooves, the new material rivaled them in sheer infectious energy. Lead singer Zahira Gutierrez, dressed all in blue like a magical disco fairy, delivered new cuts like "Closer" and "Unconditional Love" with trademark irresistible style. And I still can't get over how catchy and perfectly crafted "Eye Makeup" is. You can listen to the band's 2015 album *88 92* on loop on Spotify while you wait for the new Wild Moccasins album to drop early next year.

-Ben Jones

Ben Jones is another one of our three music directors. He listens exclusively to Travis Scott and sad guitar music.

## ALBUM REVIEW

BEN FROST - *THE CENTRE CANNOT HOLD*

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 30TH ON MUTE RECORDS

*The Centre Cannot Hold* is the brand new record from Australian electronic/drone/ambient musician Ben Frost, out on Mute Records. After releasing the blisteringly heavy, percussion focused record *AURORA* in 2014, Frost seems to have switched gears away from brutal percussion and volatile noise atmospheres into a more electronic and synth based realm on this record. Make no mistake though, this album is still enveloping and heavy, just in different ways. Where *AURORA* was an album based in fire and light, *The Centre Cannot Hold* is a different beast. Recorded over a two week period with producer Steve Albini, this album is an enveloping sonic exploration of a cold and icy ocean wasteland. It is harrowingly apocalyptic, yet all the same hauntingly beautiful. From the get go, album opener "Threshold of Faith" feels like being thrown into a frigid, tumultuous river and being washed out into a serene, infinite sea. Mid album highlight "Eurydice's Heel" sounds like the soundtrack to Blade Runner if Blade Runner's futuristic dystopian city was on the floor of the Arctic Ocean. "Ionia" spends its first half floating in an icy and anxious synthscape before plunging into what can only be described as a futuristic club banger. The album ends on an incredibly high note with "Entropy in Blue", a song that legitimately sounds like it's fighting for its own survival. Overall, *The Centre Cannot Hold* is a pristine sonic journey, unlike anything I've really heard before. The balance it strikes between bleak apocalyptic textures and unexplainable awe and beauty is truly unique, making it one of the most fascinating and engaging records of the year thus far.

-Eddie James

Eddie James is one of our three music directors. He wears a vintage neon yellow Rice trucker hat.