

# Mike Spicer



## Background information

<b>Birth name</b>	Michael Palmer Spicer
<b>Also known as</b>	Mike Spicer

	The Big Toe Mike Germany The Squid
<b>Born</b>	April 8, 1966
<b>Origin</b>	Eugene, Oregon USA
<b>Genre(s)</b>	Rock Experimental Ambient Electronic down tempo Alt country Sound Scapes Folk Country Sound track
<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Musician Songwriter Band Leader Producer Label Publisher
<b>Instrument(s)</b>	Guitar Electronics Synthesizers Computer Banjo Theremin
<b>Years active</b>	1982 – present
<b><u>Label(s)</u></b>	Concert Of Kings Music
<b>Associated acts</b>	King's Caravan Peripheral Bliss BingoTherapy The Odessa Strange SBS Velvet Monkey Pat Dooney Band Hair-lip Gypsy Mike Kolander Band Jealous Stripper Girlfriend Jim's Roadside Service

Rhythm Jones (writer)  
The Penetrators  
Cross Town Traffic  
Track & Field  
Virtue  
Mike and the Mice

### Members

**Michael P Spicer** born on April 8, 1966 in Eugene Oregon, USA is an artist, credited with exploring many genres as a band leader producer, musician, and song writer.

## History

### Career:

At age 4 the Spicer family William, Clemmie, Bill Jr. and Michael moved to Portland Oregon. Mike started producing music at the age of 15, his first record titled “Mike and the Mice” was a collection of experimental textures and early songs that proved to be a production testing ground and foundation for future projects. In 1982 the band “Vurtue” was formed with Paul DeKoning (drums) Chris Graham (guitar/bass) Mark Baumgardner (guitar/bass) Mark Hamel (vocals). Only one recording of this lineup exists titled “live at Cathedral”. In 1983 the line-up changed with Rick Arias replacing Hamel on vocals and Steve Givan replacing Baumgardner on bass, the new group “Track & Field” played several shows from 83-84 with only one surviving recording “Live at Lincoln”. The band disbanded in early 1984.

In Mid 1984 Spicer, Mike Kolander (vocals) Jamie Hines (bass) and Carl Miler (drums) formed an unnamed group and recorded for 6 months. These sessions produced several outtake recordings but no albums.

In late 1984 Spicer formed “CrosstownTraffic” with Pat Dooney (guitar/vocals) Dave Easley (rhythm guitar). The bands rhythm section consisted of Ned Failing (drums), and John Cogan (bass). This new group experimented with conventional songs and long play jam sessions. This group was the first creative forum and collaboration between Spicer and Dooney. The group entered the studio in 1985 to record “Got No Time” and a cover of Jimi Hendrix’s “Hey Joe”. A notable bootleg contains the original song “Out of Hand”. The group played several shows between 1984-1987 and disbanded in 1987.

Between 1987-89 Spicer attended open jam sessions at local blues bars and entered into a writing/recording phase co-writing songs with Pat Dooney (vocals/guitar), Mike Kolander (vocals/guitar) and Paul Burger (bass/vocals) this collaboration resulted in the

1989 album "listen". A collection of original new material blending early song craft with experimental/electronic soundscapes and recording techniques.

In late 1989 Spicer, Dooney and Chris Graham went into the studio and produced the songs "Fine Time", "Sweet Thing" and "Big House". Dooney's band "Rhythm Jones" and used the Spicer/Dooney co-written song "Big House" as one of the singles on their 1996 debut album titled "Rhythm Jones".

In 1990 Spicer joined forces with Brain Baker (vocals/guitar) and Baker's childhood friend veteran drummer Jeff Strawbridge (drums) to form "The Penetrators" also in this group was Noel (vocals) and Bill Limbocker (bass). The group disbanded later that year. Spicer, Baker and Strawbridge re-formed as "SBS" an experimental power trio that began recording in 1993. SBS utilized a no boundaries approach to playing with all members trading instruments between songs creating a forum of complete freedom and experimentation to push the sound to uncharted territory. Their first release "Lost Jam" released (2002) followed by "Creature Session" (2002), "Desert Highway" (2003), "Ranchers Pride" (2003), "Newton" (2006), "Pound of Murphy" (2007) "Germany" (2007) and Alien Sexfarm Abduction (2007).

In 1992 Spicer teamed with Ethan Shields (guitar) and John Cogan (bass) to produce several recording sessions at "Anna's Loft" the group collaborated with Pat Dooney in the studio in 1994 and released the singles "Future Man" and "The Bearded Lady" the same year.

In 1998 Spicer collaborated with Thorin Nielson (vocals/guitar) to co-write "Bound Up" and "Bucks of The Brave" this session resulted in studio recordings of Nielson compositions "Follow the Lady", "Dusty Heart" and "Pounding The Pavement" released in 2004.

In 1998 Spicer formed "Jim's Roadside Service" with Jim Livermore (vocals/rhythm guitar), Paul DeKoning (drums/vocals) Pat Stiles (bass) and Chris Graham (guitar/keyboards). This group experimented with country music and classic rock. Several sessions were recorded with one live recording "Live at the old market pub" including the single "City of Roses". The band disbanded in 2001 and reformed as "Bingotherapy" [[www.bingotherapy.com](http://www.bingotherapy.com)] in (2002 - Present) with a new line-up consisting of Spicer (guitar), Bob Macon (drums 2002-2005) Roman Raimondo (drums 2005-present) Jim Livermore (vocals/rhythm guitar), Jana Cole (vocals), Matt Elsen (pedal steel) and Pat Dooney (bass). The new lineup covered a wide range of music genres, from country swing, classic rock and long form jam band exploration. This group re-united Spicer and Dooney and gave them a forum to collaborate and write new material. The songs released from this group consist of a new version of "Sweet Thing", "Tonight I want to stay with you", "Wasted Again", "Beer Belly Woman", "Numb to the Thrill", "One More Time", "Magdalena", and "Belly Button". The group released the album "Live at CMD" 2002 and "Live at the FEZ" 2002. They backed Jim Livermore on his solo album "Rhinestones and Rust" 2007 and released their debut album "Americana Freak show" in 2008.

Spicer formed and produced The ARRAH WANNA Sessions with original “Jim’s roadside service’ members Jim Livermore (vocals/rhythm guitar), Paul DeKoning (drums/vocals) Bob Macon (drums) and Chris Graham (guitar/keyboards). Releasing “ARRAH WANNA Session One” (2003) and “ARRAH WANNA Session Two”(2004)

Spicer formed the down-tempo group “Peripheral Bliss” [www.peripheralbliss.com] in (2004-present), Deon Staffelback (computer/soft synths) Blaine Borgia (keyboards) and Marc Davis (Video DJ). This group explores and intertwines down-tempo organic textures with guitar and soothing meditative pads of sound. Their debut release “Scarlet Sundance” 2006 shows each band members unique qualities.

Spicer formed the band “Kings Caravan” in 2005 with Brain Baker (vocals/guitar) Jeff Strawbridge (Drums) and Pat Dooney (Bass/Vocals/guitar) releasing their debut album “Circus Maximus” 2008.

Spicer formed the band “The Odessa Strange” in 2006. This group is primarily a solo effort of sound scapes and unique textured music. Some of the tracks are a collaboration with Ned Howard (synths/computer) the debut album “Another time Another place” is slated for release in 2008.

Spicer formed the band “Velvet Monkey” in 2007 with Jana Cole (vocals) Brain Baker (vocals/guitar) Jeff Strawbridge (Drums) and Pat Dooney (Bass/Vocals/guitar) playing shows in 2007 and working on their debut album.

Spicer established Concert of Kings Publishing in 2006.

## Discography

Michael P Spicer discography:

Michael P Spicer has released a large amount of material under various bands and projects. The following lists only his most notable releases.

### **Mike And The Mice:**

- *Mike and the Mice* (1982)

### **Vurtue:**

- *Live at Cathedral* (1983)

### **Track & Field:**

- *Live at Lincoln* (1984)

### **Crosstown Traffic:**

- *Attic tapes* (1985)
- *Live at Lincoln* (1986)

**Listen:**

- *Listen* (1989)

**The Penetrators:**

- *Live in Eugene* (1990)

**Rhythm Jones:**

- *Rhythm Jones* (1996)

**Mike Kolander:**

- *The Vault - Music by Mike Kolander* (1983-2002)

**SBS:**

- *Lost Jam* (2002)
- *Creature Session* (2002)
- *Desert Highway* (2003)
- *Ranchers Pride* (2003)
- *Newton* (2006)
- *Pound of Murphy* (2007)
- *Germany* (2007)
- *Alien Sexfarm Abduction* (2007)
- *Raw Space* (2008)
- *Starfish Mafia* (2010)

**Jim's Roadside Service:**

- *Live at the old market pub* (1999)
- *ARRAH WANNA Sessions 1* (2003)
- *ARRAH WANNA Sessions 2* (2004)
- *ARRAH WANNA Sessions 3* (2008)

**BingoTherapy:**

- *Live at CMD Halloween* (2002)
- *Live at the Fez* (2002)
- *Live at O'Connor's* (2004)
- *Tonight I Want To Stay With You – single* (2005)
- *One More Time – single* (2005)
- *Beer Belly Woman – single* (2006)
- *Coming Home* (2007)
- *Numb To the Thrill – single* (2009)
- *Angel Fingers – single* (2009)
- *West Virginia – single* (2019)
- *Thinking Of You – single* (2010)
- *Our Love Is Still Alive – single* (2010)
- *Romancing the Stranger* (2011)

**Peripheral Bliss:**

- *Peripheral Bliss One* (2003)
- *Peripheral Bliss Two* (2003)
- *Scarlet Sundance* (2006)
- *Nanofingers* (2010)
- *Cosmic Lullaby* (2011)

#### **The Odessa Strange:**

- *Another Time Another Place* (2009)

#### **Kings Caravan:**

- *Orange Lava Lamp (EP)* 2007
- *The Mid And The Middle – single* (2008)
- *Circus Maximus* (2008)
- *Rocktopus* (2010)

#### **Pat Dooney Band:**

- *Surrogate Mother – single* (1989)
- *The Actor – single* (1989)
- *Take another look – single* (1996)
- *Big House – single* (1989)
- *Fine Time – single* (1989)
- *Future Man – single* (1990)
- *Bearded Lady – single* (1990)
- *Take another look – single* (1990)
- *Blood – single* (1995)
- *Get use to it – single* (1996)
- *Last night –single* (1997)
- *Drive on – single* (2001)
- *Shadows – single* (2004)
- *Wasted Again – single* (2005)
- *On With the living – single* (2005)
- *Crawl out of the rain – single* (2006)
- *Devil In Me – single* (2007)
- *California – single* (2007)

#### **Velvet Monkey:**

- *Let it Out – single* (2003)
- *Unbecoming \_ single* (2004)
- *Life's Highway – single* (2006)
- *Don't You – single* (2007)

## **Influences**

Mike has numerous musical influences that cover a wide range of genres. These lists are just the tip of the iceberg for artists that have or are currently influencing Mike's music.

As a child some of the first music he gravitated too was Kiss, Kraftwerk, Elton John, Carpenters, KC and Sunshine band, Chet Atkins and the Knack. Introduced through MTV in the early 80's many new bands became household names overnight and Mike soaked up this wave of music like a sponge. Later in his youth he focused on blues, classic rock bands and mood albums; Who, Kinks, Clash, Rolling Stones, Doors, Led Zeppelin, Tom Petty, Van Halen, Pink Floyd. Eagles, Steely Dan, Jethro Tull, Eno, Talking Heads, Elvis, Beatles, and Neil Young. One of his first and favorite albums being B.B. King's "LA Midnight".

Mike credits several country musicians as influences, Gillian Welch, Steve Earle, Ian Tyson, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, Roy Clark, Dave Mason, Lucinda Williams, Gourds, and Willie Nelson. These and other country artists set the tone for the alt country side of his music and put him in touch with the American roots music.

Current ambient influences are Japan Cakes, Explosions in the sky, Aphix Twin, Godspeed, Do may say think, Radio Head, Pan Am, Portus Head. Other bands; Luna, Death Cab for Cutie, Sound Garden, SST, Metalica, Crystal Method, John Barry of 007 movie soundtrack fame.

Some of the Blues artists that had an early influence consist of BB King, John Lee Hooker, Clarence Gate Mouth Brown, Hound Dog Taylor, Buddy Guy, Steve Miller, Paul Butterfied, John Mayal, Jimi Hendrix, and Robin Trower.

Jazz influences are mostly Bop/Free artist from 1956-1971, with notable players being Freddie Hubbard, Joe Henderson, Cootie Williams, Lester Young, Grant Green, Wes Montgomery, Kenny Burrell, John Coltrane, George Colman, Thornel Schwartz. Dexter Gordon, Pat Martino, Nate Cannonball Adderly, Horace Silver, Herbie Hancock, and many others in this style.

## External links

Related bands/projects

- [www.peripheralbliss.com](http://www.peripheralbliss.com)
- <http://cdbaby.com/cd/peripheralbliss>
- [www.kings-caravan.com](http://www.kings-caravan.com)
- <http://cdbaby.com/cd/kingscaravan>
- <http://radioindy.com/bands/2616/index.php>
- <http://jimlivermoremusic.com/>
- [www.bingotherapy.com](http://www.bingotherapy.com)
- [www.strangetones.com](http://www.strangetones.com)
- [www.beltainemusic.com](http://www.beltainemusic.com)

myspace page for SBS band:

- <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=395651161>



myspace page for “Saturated Phats”

- <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=371965124>

