

Wifflefist Bandcamp Friday

August 7, 2020

Take advantage of Wifflefist Bandcamp Friday this Friday August 7, 2020!

Bandcamp is doing what they call Bandcamp Fridays, where they waive their revenue share on the first Friday of each month. This means that the proceeds of all purchases go directly to the artists you purchase from - awesome! In Wifflefist's case, even though our artists may not be active, the archives are full of unreleased and unheard audio, so your purchase dollars will help us get more out for you to hear! So this Friday (or any day) be sure to check out wifflefist.bandcamp.com!

A quick note about the audio tracks available at wifflefist.bandcamp.com... Many (most?) of the original releases, while fascinating, interesting, and sometimes even challenging to listen to, often didn't have as high of sonic quality as they could have. This is simply a byproduct of the gear, technology, and audio recording skillz we had available at the time - and quite honestly we didn't really have the money to make them sound as good as they could have sounded. So for these releases that maybe weren't quite up to par sonically, they have gone through an audio blandishment process (ie. re-mastered) by our own Wifflefist resident audio archivist Ian Shannon. Now all releases sound so much better than they ever have, and have the audio quality that listeners expect nowadays.

We hope that you have enjoyed (re)visiting Wifflefist's audio catalog at wifflefist.bandcamp.com. What's that, you haven't checked it out yet? Well this Friday August 7th is a great day to do so!

Additionally, we have some more updates on the Wifflefist website, including some original stock physical releases! Go to wifflefist.com and see what's there, and you too can own a physical piece of audio history!

Don't see a physical copy of something you would like? Ask, and perhaps we actually do have a copy somewhere - you never know!

What is Wifflefist?

Wifflefist was a bunch of people who got together to do stuff - audio stuff, live performance stuff, film stuff, and video stuff. The collective existed from roughly 1990 - 1998, with membership primarily from the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill parts of North Carolina. It existed during the time when tapes were still traded, people still answered the (landline) telephone, CDs were expensive to have made, and the internet wasn't available as a cheap way of distribution. The output of Wifflefist is forever locked in that "pre-internet" era, and if you weren't there for it, assuming you were even interested or aware, you missed it. This year (2020) marks thirty years since the initial release (A Wifflefist Compilation), thus this effort celebrates Wifflefist@30. So it's (past) time to make this content available again. Because reasons. Check it out at wifflefist.bandcamp.com.

As an audio entity, Wifflefist released music by a diverse variety of bands, both on compilations as well as band-specific releases. Artists included (not a complete list below):

- Silica Gel
- BeatlesS
- Krapper Keeper
- Polycarp
- Repetophile
- Mag Wheels
- Orifice
- Friend Side Monkey
- Banana Twins

This audio collection on Bandcamp represents the bulk of the official audio releases from Wifflefist, but sneaks in a few additions of some more recent content. Some of these releases can be found other places online, but many of them haven't been available unless you happened to be around during that time and picked up a physical copy. Additionally, most of these releases have recently received audio improvements for an enhanced listening experience. This Wifflefist@30 effort gets these releases organized and online on Bandcamp, and is welcoming you to listen again, or to listen for the first time.

Beyond the releases being made available now, the Wifflefist archives contain additional content which will find its way out periodically going forward, so there is more history to come forth and be re-lived.

Many and sincerest thanks to all of the fine folks who participated in one way or another with Wifflefist. You collectively helped create an eclectic and unique output of recorded material, and now the world is able to easily experience it online. This collection is only possible because of you all!

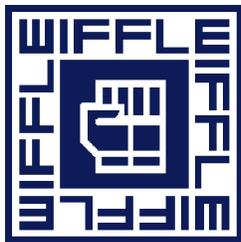
Wifflefist would also like to give a huge thank you also to the many supporters of Wifflefist throughout the years. You endured and hopefully appreciated a wide array of live performances, recorded releases, radio programs, all-star casts, brilliance and silliness, debauchery and debutants, and undoubtedly were mystified by the many in-jokes and hijinx. But we were glad you were all along for the ride with us.

Wow, 30 years!

Thank you!

-Wifflefist

www.wifflefist.com



(The dynamic fist device is a trademark to the absurdity of Wifflefist)

Artists

The following are brief descriptions of many of the artists represented by Wifflefist audio releases. But it is not a complete list by any means...

Repetophile

Repetophile was an improvisational and participatory audio collage and noise group made up of whoever was around or available at the time it seemed it was good to get together. With collaborations based around repetition (often beyond the realm of annoyance), freeform audio and noises woven throughout, usually made with the cheapest of equipment, often with thematic content, Repetophile sometimes happened in a "studio" environment, but also sometimes happened more famously live in public, as arts or music festival participants and sometimes opening for real bands (even opening for the band FEAR).

BeatlesS

BeatlesS had a long life as a Raleigh band, formed in the late 1980s and ending sometime during 1996. The band started out as an industrial noise and percussion ensemble, with participation often resulting in as many as 10 band members per performance. These performances showed the participatory noise/industrial-music style origins of the band, and were full of pounding percussion, noise, synths, planned and unplanned sounds, feedback, and vocals consisting of everything from song lyrics to propagandist/anarchist diatribes. During this period BeatlesS opened for bands such as White Zombie and The Swanns. As time passed and membership changed, the band eventually settled into a more traditional 4 person rock-type band grinding out music in a more traditional format (guitar, bass, drums, vocals, synths/noises). Sometimes the band would provide the soundtracks for live performances, including "The Little Drummond Boy" Christmas Show, as well as a version of The Passion Play. Other live show highlights of this era was the opportunity to open for the bands The Jesus Lizard, Cop Shoot Cop, and Crash Worship. A wide diversity of recorded output was captured, including industrial/noise-rock songs, sound art collage tracks, and even as an impromptu backing band for a couple of young rap artists who stumbled into a live recording taking place on WXDU in Durham, NC.

Polycarp

This dandy foursome from Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina combines synthesizers, samples, strings, winds, percussion and odd vocals into queasy pop songs and abstract soundscapes. Rich's grandmother-in-law liked to listen to them while doing the daily crossword puzzle, but this activity could be hazardous to the novice listener.

Krappier Keeper

Boys are boys, as are men. Released on a dare, this is a testament to all that is immature. You'll wonder at the pure intensity of this dumb, dumb release. And the more you try to ignore it, the more it invades your subconscious fiber. True story: Krappier Keeper were once spokespeople for Zima.

Orifice

Orifice was a noisy rock band out of Raleigh, NC that churned out throbbing, pounding, whining, exhilarating songs, both recorded and in live performance. An aural force for your orifice.

Featuring Christie Eames (Blue-Green Gods), Ethan Smith (Raleigh legend), Greg Elkins (Vanilla Trainwreck and others, also studio owner/magician), and Wayne Taylor (NC Hardcore Bands No Labels and Wwax)

Silica Gel

Silica-Gel was formed in the early 1990's by Michael Pilmer & Chris Tector. They met in college & shared a love of Severed Heads, Coil, Negativland & similar bands of that era, and eventually decided to make noise of their own as Silica-Gel. They performed a handful of live shows in the US, including Raleigh, Wilmington and NYC, and released 1 full album in 1993 titled "50) Noisy Children Party". Their 1993 release "50) Noisy Children Party" was released on CD on Seeland records, and again in 2016 on vinyl by Future Logic Development Corporation.

Mag Wheels

Mag Wheels was a peek into the muddled yet happy microcosm of David Sullivan and his damaged low-fi equipment that he used to create high-quality songs and sounds that are catchy, scratchy, and warm - like wool socks.

Friend Side Monkey

Friend Side Monkey was a beats and synth-based band out of Durham, NC, and for a time was known to be "combatting the Triangle's beat deficit". Combining sequenced and synthesized stylings with live bass or violin all reinforced by live DJ scratching, FSM was an unlikely entity to exist in the late 90s in North Carolina, or anywhere. Two-thirds of this band would live on as the [ExMonkeys](#), who would forge their own electronic music path.

Banana Twins

Banana Twins are an audio representation of what men do when they are alone together. Source tapes were recorded in social gatherings, and these source tapes were later combined with other sounds via cheap audio technology. Sounds were generated by electric and acoustic guitars, some cheapo synths, a big plastic comb, some noisy toys, a crutch, and a drum machine. You'll hate it.

Releases

WIF001 - A Wifflefist Compilation

Original release format: cassette

The initial release from Wifflefist was a cassette simply titled "A Wifflefist Compilation". While the sounds were on cassette, each artist contributed graphic content, which was combined into a booklet the size of a 7" single (and was packaged in a 7" sleeve). A wide diversity of songs and sounds ranging from jazzy to industrial to sound art to rock set the benchmark for all the releases that followed. As we said one time: "The compilation cassette that trumpeted the arrival of Wifflefist. Features BeatlesS, Polycarp, Silica Gel, Repetophile, Glockenspiel, Cast Iron Dog, plus many other amazing artists. Includes 15-page booklet!". Recommended for all listeners.

WIF002 - BeatlesS - Typical Fear Stimulus

Original release format: cassette

- Side A named Typical Fear Stimulus
- Side B named Beatlesstompf

The second cassette release from Raleigh band BeatlesS. A mix of studio recordings, live recordings, and sound collage. Noisy and weird.

WIF003 - Repetophile - Durability of the Human Ear

Original release format: cassette

An exercise in repeating things culled from live recordings from two performances. Audio collage at it's finest. And yes, beer did play a role.

Fun note: the original track listing was not actually representative of the tracks on the cassette itself. For this Wifflefist@30 effort, the track titles have been updated to reflect both the content and arrangement on the release.

WIF005 - Polycarp - Sings the Blues

Original release format: 7" vinyl

Remember the time you had a really high fever when you were four and your mom drove you to the doctor and you heard a song on the car's AM radio that sounded like a woozy Perry Como backed by a giddy Mancini soundtrack? Polycarp is sort of like that.

WIF006 - Krapper Keeper - Dumping At School

Original release format: cassette

Released on a dare, this is a testament to all that is immature. You'll wonder at the pure intensity of this dumb, dumb release. And the more you try to ignore it, the more it invades your subconscious fiber. True story: Krapper Keeper were once spokespeople for Zima.

WIF007 - Mag Wheels - Mag Wheels

Original release format: cassette

Originally packaged in a real vintage romance novel for your protection.

WIF008 - BeatlesS - Lil' Man

Original release format: 7" vinyl

A noisy, gooey, obsessive use of fluids, tape and a shop-vac. Rock instruments are also used, but that's not the real reason behind it. The first and only vinyl release from Raleigh's BeatlesS. Side A/Track 1 song Chew Toy is the bangin' hit.

Side B/Tracks 2 and 3 hit you first with chaos rock and then with a lovely song about a curious hybrid creature.

WIF009 - Orifice - Colon

Original release format: 7" vinyl

The two-song 7" single from regional noise-rock-psych band. Released in conjunction with Durham's Jettison Records. Brimming with pent-up frustration. And just screaming about it only makes things worse. A band in the loose sense.

WIF010 - Silica Gel - 50) Noisy Children Party

Original release format: CD

Re-released in 2016 as a 12" double-vinyl

A release filled with bits of sound and loud thumping tones. Use it to loosen that old rusty bolt that keeps that old humming air conditioner from falling two stories. It's THAT good!

Silica-Gel was formed in the early 1990's by Michael Pilmer & Chris Tector. They met in college & shared a love of Severed Heads, Coil, Negativland & similar bands of that era, and eventually

decided to make noise of their own as Silica-Gel. They performed a handful of live shows in the US, including Raleigh, Wilmington and NYC, and released 1 full album in 1993 titled "50) Noisy Children Party".

Original release format: CD

Re-released in June 2016 as an awesome re-mastered double-vinyl gatefold release, including extra unreleased and live tracks.

WIF011 - 1 of 24 hours

Original release format: cassette

This release is from segments of the 24-hour Throbbing Gristle-A-Thon organized and recorded by Jonathan Lawson, 11 Sept. 1993 at WQFS, Guilford College, Greensboro NC. There were also local experimental musicians playing live along with TG, on-air giveaways, phone calls from famous people, and lots and lots of very weird and loud noises.

WIF012 - Lonely Souls - Sad Southern Man and Johnny Lightning

Original release format: cassette

Desperation compels us to do regretful things. The unlucky ones have their desperate acts recorded. The real and original tape recordings that make up this release found their way into Wifflefist's hands and ears back in the early 1990s, and we immediately realized these needed to reach a wider and intended audience. You hear them as we heard them. Unfortunately for these unknown Lonely Souls, our reach originally was not so great, but now we have the power of the internet to allow these two men to finally find their audience! Whether they intended for this to reach a wider audience or not, they now can reach the audience they desired (or dreaded). Scan of the original Johnny Lightning cassette we received is included with the album download. Sadly, the original micro-cassette of Sad Southern Man has been lost. For educational purposes only.

WIF014 - Scattered & Smothered

Original release format: CD

The second compilation from Wifflefist was titled "Scattered & Smothered" (not to be confused with a similarly-named release the same year from a well-known noise rock band). This compilation (now on CD format) continued the diversity of contributors and sounds started with the first compilation. Here's what we originally said: "A greasy audio sampler containing twenty-two tracks by eleven different Wifflefist bands/sound projects: BeatlesS, Bicentennial Quarters, Cast Iron Dog, Glockenspiel, Krapper Keeper, Laso Halo, Mag Wheels, Orifice, Polycarp, Repetophile and Silica Gel." If you missed it the first time, now's the time to experience it for yourself.

WIF015 - Silica Gel w/ The Weatherman - Personal Hygiene & Beautification

Original release format: cassette

Documents a special WXYC call-in noise show. Proceeds went to the WXYC radio tower fund.

WIF016 - Polycarp - The Magnetic Moment

Original release format: CD

A wondrous release of warbly robot lounge music from another dimension.

WIF017 - BeatlesS - Love Your Parents

Original release format: CD

Twenty songs and noisy soundtracks. Cathartic and catchy.

WIF018 - Banana Twins - Everybody's Nose Looks Like a Dumb Piece of Shit

Original release format: cassette

A stupid tape with stupid songs. Oh yeah, this is dumb. By the usual suspects who made the first Krapper Keeper tape. Equally at home with youth as well as with the elderly. They wouldn't make it if people wouldn't listen. Well, maybe they would.

WIF019 - BeatlesS - Basement Audio

Original release format: CD

Secret tapes recorded six feet underground with a wide variety of instruments and experiments. All improv, nothing sequenced, fresh from source. We picked the best moments for this one.

WIF020 - Quiet!

Original release format: CD

This is a document of the Quiet! noise device and sculpture show held at Lump Gallery (www.lumpgallery.com) in Raleigh during December of 1998. It was an exhibition of noisy,

soundmaking devices – curated by Skip Elsheimer and Wifflefist. Loud and rumbling with soft and gentle parts. All tracks owned by, but maybe not claimed by, the amazing people who made them. Shhhhhhh!

WOF021 - Friend Side Monkey - Those Pesky Bubbles

Original release format: CD

Six song EP of happy electronic songs that will move your buttocks. Combatting the Triangle's Beat Deficit.

WOF022 - Friend Side Monkey - Live at WXDU 072698

Original release format: CD

These songs were recorded live on WXDU, the Durham NC radio station of Duke University on July 28, 1998. These are more representative of FSM's organic sound journeys, allowing for experimentation based around a central planned audio theme.

WOF023 - Friend Side Monkey - FSM Extras

Original release format: Online

Unrealized song ideas originally recorded in 1998, but then found in the archives, fixed up and molded into coherent tracks, and released for the first time in 2020. Because we all deserve to hear these relics that are as relevant today as they were 20+ years ago!