

8 BIT GALLERY

Handheld Gaming Console Photography

**SUBMIT YOUR
HANDHELD GAMING
CONSOLE PHOTOGRAPHY
WITH ANY APPROPRIATE
CREDIT/TITLES/LINKS
FOR A CHANCE
TO BE FEATURED.**

TheOldShoulder@proton.me

Original Hardware, Emulation, Modified Consoles/Programs, and Filters Welcome

OT05: 8BitPeoples.com is an absolute treasure chest of music for any new chiptune fan. Are there any future plans for 8BP?

BS: Nothing specific at the moment. However Jeremiah (Nullsleep) reminded me recently that 2024 is the label's 25th anniversary, so who knows?

OT05: How does the chiptune scene of the twenty-twenties compare to that of the noughties?

BS: This is a big question and my observations here are of course entirely subjective. I think things now are a little more spread out, with fewer epicenters of activity (either geographically or online). Which is fine and probably the result of a number of influencing factors, not least of which being the pandemic and lockdown, which of course stifled live activity and led to the loss of a lot of DIY-friendly live venues. The nature of online communities has also changed over time, moving away from standalone websites & forums (like 8bitcollective and chipmusic.org) to the sort of turnkey ease of social media platforms, and more recently, to Discord it seems. I think the move away from forums and toward social media platforms had the unforeseen effect of fragmentation. Not everyone who's on Twitter is on Facebook, vice versa, and meanwhile the platforms themselves keep shifting in terms of the manner in which algorithms either promote or stifle visibility and communication, which can seem really arbitrary. Standalone forums / websites had their downsides too, but in hindsight I think they were probably better suited for cultivating a community.

Another important difference is that I think there's much greater awareness now of the importance and nuances of inclusion and the necessity of active effort to promote and maintain that inclusion. In hindsight this was not nearly as much of a conscious priority in the '00s as it really should have been. I'm glad these things are part of the open conversation now in the chipmusic community.

OT05: Can you share any exotic or surreal experiences that have come from performing music with Game Boys around the world?

BS: I'm indescribably fortunate to have had the opportunities I've had with this silly project. I'm just so, so grateful that chipmusic, and the wonderful people in it, enabled me to have what are truly some of the best experiences of my life. Frankly that alone is borderline surreal, to get to your question. Some specific standouts: doing a month-long world tour with Nullsleep (I still can't believe we pulled it off). Getting tossed in jail for posting flyers in Manhattan's East Village. Getting inadvertently locked inside a pizza place in Barcelona. Oliver Wittchow saving me from a hostile passerby in Vienna who was angry about George Bush (wish I'd known the German for "dude, believe me, I'm with you on this"). Playing an unexpectedly and intimidatingly quiet show during daylight hours in a small clothing boutique in Kobe Japan. Malcolm McLaren showing up at a tiny show me and my friends organized in Manhattan — that was a big one. He ended up conversing with us for a while about chipmusic — he was intently and genuinely fascinated by it. My memory of hearing him tell us "this is gaoing to blaow ahp" is so crystal clear it may as well be an audio recording in my brain. Not sure it ever did blow up — although that's open to interpretation — but his enthusiasm for it was really both heartwarming and thrilling. Rest in peace, Malcolm.

OT05: Are there any chiptune artists that you're currently excited about?

BS: I've been less plugged-in recently than I used to be in terms of knowing who's out there doing what. Firebrandboy recently released an EP of gentle chipbreak that I love. Another consistently great artist is nmlstyl, I'm constantly knocked out by each new release. Nishioka Diddley is a really unique artist whose releases I've been enjoying a lot. There's an artist by the name of checs whose album Geometropia knocked me out. Chipzel continues to absolutely slay. I don't know if they've released anything recently but I find myself revisiting .sylCMYK's chiptune releases a lot. I get the sense there's a lot more awesome stuff out there from newer artists that I haven't heard yet, I really need to dive in and I'm sure I'll discover new faves.