

## Stephen Hamm- Biography

### ELEVATOR PITCH

A legendary member of the Vancouver Music and Arts scene for over thirty years, Stephen Hamm invites you to take a trip with Stephen Hamm: Theremin Man, a wildly creative solo show that features the unique electronic instrument the theremin.

A legendary member of the Vancouver Music scene for over thirty years, Stephen Hamm continues a prolific, adventurous musical career and has become one of Canada's most unforgettable and beloved performers. Stephen has played in bands like Slow, Canned Hamm and Nardwuar And The Evaporators.

A multi instrumentalist, Stephen Hamm has shifted his focus to mastering the theremin. The theremin is an early electronic instrument that is touchless: a thereminist interacts with magnetic fields around the two antennae on a theremin rather than actually touching the instrument. Stephen has been thrilling audiences at clubs and festivals with his wildly creative solo show based around theremin and synthesizer and has been taking them on an electro musical journey into new abstract dimensions of sound!

### LONG VERSION

A legendary member of the Vancouver Music and Arts scene for over thirty years, Stephen Hamm continues a prolific, adventurous and distinctly Canadian musical career on his path to becoming one of Canada's most unforgettable and beloved performers. Today, Stephen is Theremin Man, a space traveler and storyteller who sends waves of good vibes and dance beats out to his followers, affectionately known as the Space Family.

### A Big Part of Canadian Music History

Stephen has played on many important music recordings starting with legendary Vancouver proto-grunge band **Slow**. In 1985 Zulu records released the Slow album *Against the Glass* and their EP that has been credited as the Pacific NorthWest recording that [kicked off the grunge movement](#). The lead single and video from that album, [Have Not Been the Same](#), was a hit on Much Music and influenced many young musicians from Kurt Cobain here on the west coast all the way over to members of Sloan (Chris Murphy confided to Stephen that Sloan came up with their name by adding an 'N' to Slow). Exclaim described Slow as "[Canada's greatest rock'n'roll band](#)" and a Chart reader poll ranked *Against the Glass* the 17th best Canadian album of all time and their single Have Not Been the Same as the 10th greatest Canadian song. In 2021

Knowledge Network produced a documentary featuring the band called [Exposition Demolition](#). A brief reunion in 2017 resulted in a 10 night stand of sold out performances in Vancouver, a show in Victoria and an East Coast tour with a sold out show in Toronto's Danforth Music Hall.

### **Unforgettable Performances and Musical Acts**

Stephen spent most of the 1990's touring Canada and the U.S. in his bands **Tankhog** and **Jungle**. In 1991 Tankhog opened for Vancouver Industrial music pioneers Skinny Puppy on their Too Dark Park tour across North America. Jungle opened for Tricky Woo, April Wine, Rhymes with Orange, and Enuff Z'Nuff. In 1998 Jungle travelled to the then new democracy of Slovenia to play shows while the War in the Balkans raged only a few hundred kilometres away.

In the early 2000's Stephen recorded and toured Canada with BMI recording artists **Copyright** as their keyboard player, touring Canada in support of bands like Matthew Good, Sloan, Treble Charger and Big Wreck.

Between 2000 and 2004, Stephen toured extensively throughout Canada, the U.S. and Australia with his musical comedy duo **Canned Hamm**; most notably playing twenty nine dates in thirty days in a tour across the U.S. Canned Hamm recorded their debut CD *Karazma* in 2001 and played shows with the likes of Tim and Eric, Neil Hamburger and The New Pornographers. In 2002 the video for the song [Father and Son](#) blew up on Quebec's MusiquePlus becoming the number two song on the channel's wildly popular show Dollar-a-Clip for several months. This was followed by sold out shows in Montreal and a packed live performance at MusiquePlus headquarters.

In 2007 Stephen became the permanent bass player for the notorious Vancouver music personality **Narduar the Human Serviette**'s band **The Evaporators**. He wrote and recorded three albums with The Evaporators for Mint Records and appeared in many of their highly entertaining and, often uniquely Canadian, rock videos ([I Can't be Shaved](#), featuring Drake and [Ogopogo Punk](#)). The band played South by Southwest Music Festival many years in a row and toured with Franz Ferdinand and Andrew W.K.

In 2008 Stephen started freelancing as a sound designer and composer. Highlights include work on director Katrin Bowen's feature length movie Amazon Falls which won best female director at the Toronto Film Festival in 2010.

### **Theremin Man**

In 2015, Stephen Hamm shifted his focus to the theremin, an early electronic instrument invented in 1920 to be used to play classical music but today mostly known for its use in science fiction movies. Intent on mastering this instrument, Stephen travelled to France to study under German theremin virtuoso Carolina Eyck in 2017. In 2019 Stephen released his debut album Theremin Man to critical acclaim. The singles [Space Sister](#) and [Another Planet](#) received radio play on college radio as well as on Sirius XM and CBC3. In 2019, Stephen toured BC and played shows in Los Angeles to enthusiastic audiences.

During the pandemic Stephen turned his attention to hosting weekly online Theremin Meditations: twenty minute live ambient music performances to help people to relax during the lockdown. In January 2021 Stephen released the seven-inch vinyl single *Listen to the Sound of the Sun/Inner Voice* and the digital singles *Valentina* and *Galactic Man*. The latter was packaged as a digital download with the eight page Theremin Man Colouring Book featuring illustrations by artist [Erin Green](#).

In the summer of 2022 Theremin Man returned to the live stage performing in Prince George, at Nanaimo's Backyard Festival, Vancouver's Khatsahlano Music Festival, and Robert's Creek's Rogue Arts and Music Festival; as well as concerts in Powell Rver, Sechelt, Queen's Park in New Westminster and Burnaby's Confederation Park.

Theremin Man is not just a solo act, it is an experience. A robed Stephen Hamm is an imposing presence, but his kind eyes and friendly face make everyone comfortable and ready to take in the overall space travel vibes and thought-provoking lyrics as he demonstrates his mastery over his esoteric instrument. Dancing usually follows shortly thereafter. With a 2nd album release planned for May 2023, this one-of-a-kind instrument and the Theremin Man performances positions Stephen Hamm with a very unique discography and show that continues his trajectory as a talented and unforgettably entertaining Canadian performer.

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### **THIS IS WHAT ELDER GOD PRODUCTIONS BLOG HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE RECENT SHOW AT THE RICKSHAW THEATRE IN VANCOUVER:**

Taking the stage first on Friday night at the Rickshaw Theatre was a solo act that used pre-recorded tracks, Stephen Hamm: Theremin Man. Normally a solo act where it's just one person doing their thing does nothing to spark my interest especially not at a venue like Rickshaw.

Of course normally said solo act doesn't rock a theremin, so such preconceived notions are out the door. Getting to witness an expert using a notoriously difficult-to-master instrument was fantastic, a journey into the farthest reaches of space where that unique sound takes you.

Looking like Vincent D'Onofrio if he lived in a hippie commune, they stood center stage with the theremin and a laptop that played pre-recorded tracks in the new wave/electro-rock vein. When the main draw is the theremin, it makes sense to minimize the rest of the "band". Can bust out a theremin concert just about anywhere. For those that don't know, a theremin is an instrument you play without touching. It reacts to how close the person is to it, playing with the magnetic fields surrounding it. It was the product of early Soviet government-sponsored research into proximity sensors, so you know, commie shit.

While watching this master manipulate those magnetic fields they made it look easy. The weaving of their hands, each finger moved, the slightest nuance manipulating the sound just so. The theremin emits such a spacey, otherworldly sound the songs sort of pick you up drifting you along with them.

I thoroughly enjoyed this set and have been digging into their music on Bandcamp, of which there is a good selection. They got me moving, which is essential for Him, and entertained the hell out of me with a rarely-seen instrument.