

# MOOGFEST 2008

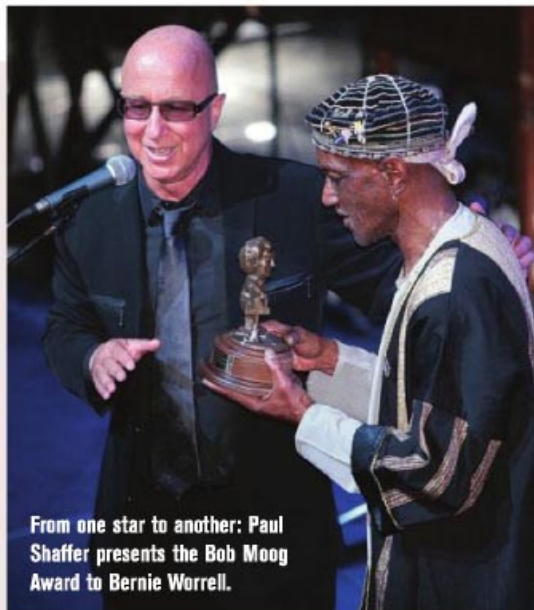
## The Annual Synthesizer Summit Returns to New York City

The synthesizer has become such a ubiquitous presence on the worldwide music scene that it's easy to forget how revolutionary an invention it was when it debuted back in the '60s. And while Bob Moog, whose last name is still synonymous with the instruments he helped invent, passed away in 2005, his legend lives on through Moog Music, and the annual synthesizer summit it sponsors, known as Moogfest.

Moogfest 2008 kicked off with an appearance by Pink Floyd tribute band the Machine. Keyboardist Scott Chasolen held court on an old school rig that featured a vintage Rhodes electric piano, a Moog Minimoog Voyager, and a Hammond XK3C clonewheel organ. Particularly moving was the band's stirring rendition of the Floyd classic "Shine On You Crazy Diamond."

Next up on the bill was the jam-based collective Prison Shank, featuring keyboardists Aron Magner and Jamie Shields, (of The Disco Biscuits and The New Deal, respectively). Both anchored keyboard setups that centered around Moog synthesizers, as did guitarist Jake Cinnegar, who impressed with his facile command of the newly released Moog Guitar.

*The Late Show with David Letterman's* longtime musical director and keyboardist Paul Shaffer presented legendary funkmeister Bernie Worrell with the Bob Moog Award for his lifetime of groundbreaking synthesizer work. Shaffer sat in with Worrell on Rhodes and vocals, (while Worrell dazzled on Hammond Organ and Minimoog Voyager), on the P-Funk classic *Flashlight*, with the crowd joining in on each groove-infected chorus.



From one star to another: Paul Shaffer presents the Bob Moog Award to Bernie Worrell.

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Jammy hipsters Umphrey's McGee closed-out the evening, with keyboardist Joel Cummins holding court on a vintage B-3 and Rhodes Suitcase EP, as well as a Minimoog Voyager and Yamaha S90 synthesizer.

Moogfest 2008 reminded all of us just how far Bob Moog took the synthesizer, and how much amazing music his inventions have made possible. Jon Regan

**Website:** [www.moogfest.net](http://www.moogfest.net)

**Moogfest 2008 Performers:** The Machine, Prison Shank, Bernie Worrell All-Stars (with The Eric McFadden Trio and special guest Paul Shaffer), Umphrey's McGee.



## Session Sensei Take the Gig, Fight the Power

I learned two important lessons last week when I showed up to play at a neighborhood block party.

**1. A gig is a gig is a gig.** Try to say "yes" whenever possible. You never know what's in store for you on the bandstand, or after the hit.

**2. Not all power in New York City is clean.** Always bring some sort of power conditioner or surge protector.

While we were setting up, my grossly

over-qualified, acoustic bass-schlepping friend and I discussed the situation. "Thanks for doing this. I really appreciate it," I said, feeling genuine gratitude that he would consent to play with me outdoors on a fall afternoon under less-than-optimal conditions.

"No, thank *you* for calling me!" he replied. "When someone calls me to play, I always say 'yes.' I love to play music, and you never know what it might lead to." He then told me about the 20-dollar gig he did in Staten Island that led to a recording session and a major college teaching post.

I replied with my standard anecdote about how my wedding gig with a Neil Diamond impersonator led to a network TV job.

I then plugged in my keyboard and my amp. Neither would go on. Later I would discover that all the instruments' fuses were blown, including the one on the second keyboard I went and retrieved from my apartment.

Try not to make assumptions when it comes to gigs, sessions, whatever – and don't take things for granted. Not even the power supply. I just hope the crowd that day liked solo acoustic bass. Scott Healy