

Matt Venuti - Composer, Performer, Multi-Instrumentalist

**For more information, high resolution photos or
to arrange an interview with Matt, contact:**

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Who is Matt Venuti?

Matt Venuti is a magnet for the uncommon and the extraordinary. As the founder and chief architect behind the San Francisco-based musical innovators, [The Venusians](#), Matt has for years enraptured audiences with entrancing melodies on his custom-built [Electronic Valve Instrument \(EVI\)](#). He's lately turned his musical focus to exploring the beauty of the [PanArt Hang](#). Created in 2001, the Hang is the most widely touted new acoustic instrument of the 21st Century and one of the most captivating and versatile of all time.

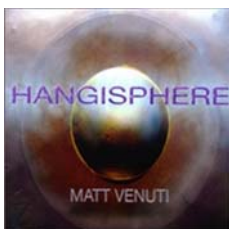


In his latest release, [Hangisphere](#), Matt reaches deep into the soul of the Hang, creating spell-binding instrumental compositions. The first music video from this CD, "[The Yolanda Trail](#)", is a moving tribute to his wife [Yolanda Bain](#), who passed away last year.

A phenomenon in itself, the Hang has a huge cult following popularized by many millions of [YouTube](#) viewers. "Hangisphere" unveils the wonder and beauty of this magical vessel. The enigmatic Hangmakers, Felix Rohner and Sabina Shärer, became fans of Matt Venuti's music after listening to his first Hang-inspired recording, "[Dance of the Helix](#)". While spending time on several occasions with them at the "Hangbauhaus" in Bern, Switzerland, Venuti has acquired an impressive collection of these difficult-to-obtain instruments in diverse tunings.

Matt Venuti's compositions and performances have been commended by luminaries such as pop icon Thomas Dolby, jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Stan Getz, list maverick Craig Newmark, and worldwide fans of his [original music](#). He has a history of performing at [progressive happenings](#) like Burning Man and the TED Conferences (multiple performances at each and also a TED presenter one year); and gala events and openings worldwide. When the Hang arrived it gradually unveiled an energy, a feeling, that he never experienced before with a musical instrument. He was immediately drawn to play the Hang outdoors. It gave him a level of freedom that he could never fully realize within the realm of electronic music, yet in the studio he has successfully merged these two worlds into one.

Discography



[Hangisphere](#)

"Matt plays the soul of the Hang." - Felix Rohner, Hang inventor

Venuti's most recent CD release, *Hangisphere* is a collection a collection of soul-stirring compositions featuring the PanArt Hang. [Samples](#)



[Dance of the Helix](#)

"Check this band out...they're great!" - Craig Newmark, Craig's List

Inspiring music to chill and thrill to, featuring Venuti's compositions and arrangements of the Hang, Kora, Mandolin, Electronic Valve Instrument, Bass, Keys, and Cool Beats. A soundtrack to live by. [Samples](#)



[Hot Planet](#)

"I'm ever an admirer of your work." - Thomas Dolby

Classic electro-acoustic World Pop tunes with entrancing rhythms and soaring melodies featuring Matt Venuti and his Electronic Valve Instrument and his cast of Venusian bandmates. [Samples](#)

Where to listen and buy Matt Venuti's work:

Click on [CD Releases](#) for samples, descriptions, and purchase info for the above CDs.

Click on [Theme Music Archives](#) to listen to various samples of his music for commercial licensing.

[All available at www.venusians.com.]

More about the PanArt Hang

In 2001, Swiss artists Felix Rohner and Sabina Schärer fused two lap-sized steel hemispheres into a structure that resembled a flying saucer. From there they sculpted an elaborate tuning matrix that became a springboard for creativity...igniting a renaissance in the world of musical instrument performance and design.

The [Hang](#) is one of the most widely accepted new acoustic instruments in many years, and one of the most captivating and versatile of all time. The Hang is not a drum, though it is often referred to as one because its popularity with hand drummers. It has a resonance, physical makeup, and range of technique options that transcend simple classifications. The name Hang comes from the Bernese Swiss-German word for hand.



Matt Venuti (center) with the Hang creators Felix Rohner and Sabina Schärer.

Typically played sitting on a person's lap, from the upright position the sound can be reminiscent of harp, keyboard, acoustic guitar, wind chimes, steel pan, and bells. When the Hang is inverted the timbre recalls ethnic percussion such as Udu, Ghatam, and Tabla. Played vertically with access to both ends a player is capable of making the music of a small ensemble. A skilled Hang player can ring it like a singing bowl, play bass lines, coax rich overtones, pluck it like a harp, chuck it like a rhythm guitar, and express beautiful melodies...even chords. A sequence of notes can induce a hypnotic arpeggio. A hand glancing the surface conjures a snare brush. Notes can be muted and bent, or resound bright and brassy. Matt Venuti employs all of these techniques and they can be heard on his newest release, [Hangisphere](#).

The inventors are the only two people who make the Hang, and every one in existence was created at their workshop in Bern.