

**Three Musicians**  
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### **Short Synopsis**

*Three Musicians* follows the lives of a jazz saxophonist, a techno artist, and a traveling singer/songwriter as they produce music based on the sights and sounds they experience in the world around them.

Using a mishmash of home videos, original footage, and visual effects, this film explores how a passion for music has influenced the lives of Kevin Pike, Devon Hughes, and Kristy Kruger.

Through the eyes of Kevin Pike, we see how sounds can become colors and how those colors evolve into the syncopated rhythms of jazz. In the technology-based world of Devon Hughes, we experience how disconnected images and ideas can be fused into high-energy techno music. Through the songwriting of Kristy Kruger, we discover what it is like to be a traveling musician.

Together, these three musicians provide unique insight into why we make music. With little fanfare and even less financial reward, they quietly pursue their musical aspirations and in doing so expose the forces behind human creativity. Filmed over a period of six years and incorporating more than two thousand hours of video and audio recordings, this documentary offers an original view of musicianship in modern-day America.

## Long Synopsis

*Three Musicians* follows the lives of a jazz saxophonist, a techno artist, and a traveling singer/songwriter as they produce music based on the sights and sounds they experience in the world around them. Using a mishmash of home videos, original footage, and visual effects, this film explores how a passion for music has influenced the lives of Kevin Pike, Devon Hughes, and Kristy Kruger.

Through the songwriting of Kristy Kruger, we discover what it is like to be a modern day troubadour. Her long stretches on the open road and the time she spends away from her friends and family is at once liberating and lonesome. At times, her only companion is a diary she has kept for over twenty years and a few photographs of loved ones. Yet, through her writings and lyrics, Kristy finds ways to persevere and uncover the sweeter side to living as a traveling musician.

Through the eyes of Kevin Pike, we see how sounds can become colors and how those colors evolve into the syncopated rhythms of jazz. Yet, Kevin is more than just a jazz saxophonist. In his recordings, he performs drums, piano, guitar, and a variety of other instruments. He is also a husband, a father, and a 9 to 5 computer technician. Balancing these roles requires ingenuity and leads him to some unexpected discoveries about what can inspire new music.

In the technology-based world of Devon Hughes, we experience how disconnected images and ideas can be fused into high-energy techno music. A modified circuit-board can become an instrument for self-expression. A pattern in a skyscraper can become a driving bass groove. Using music as his guide, Devon explores how his love for technology and his own spiritual beliefs drive him to find the common ground between man and his artificial creations.

Together, these three musicians provide unique insight into why we make music. With little fanfare and even less financial reward, they quietly pursue their musical aspirations and in doing so expose the forces behind human creativity. Filmed over a period of six years and incorporating more than two-thousand hours of video and audio recordings, this documentary offers an original view of musicianship in modern-day America.

**Kevin Pike**  
**Jazz Saxophonist**

Kevin Pike has been performing alto saxophone since he was ten. After graduating from DePaul University with a major in jazz studies, Kevin joined the house band at Chicago's Navy Pier. Two years later, he created Kevin Pike Music, Inc., his personal record label and music production company. Since then, Kevin has released a dozen albums and composed music for television, film, and podcasts.

As a recording artist, Kevin has pioneered a singular approach. Using a self-developed musical notation system and a digital recording process in which he performs each part himself, Kevin has produced a unique body of work that varies in style from jazz to funk to classical. He has also taught himself to play and record guitar, mandolin, banjo, drums and keyboard, and is known for his experimental use of unlikely instruments such as typewriters, ping pong balls, rubber bands, and other household items.

Kevin currently lives with his wife and two children in Omaha, Nebraska. His jazz performances can be heard frequently at venues throughout the city and have been highlighted by National Public Radio's All Things Considered.

For more information about Kevin's life and music, please visit [www.kpikemusic.com](http://www.kpikemusic.com).

**Kristy Kruger**  
**Singer-Songwriter**

Kristy Krüger began studying classical piano at age five. At the age of seventeen, she was honored by the Texas Music Teachers' Association for winning more musical awards than any other high school senior in the state of Texas. When she shifted gears into the world of the singer-songwriter, her untraditional approach to folk music secured her status as a favorite in her hometown of Dallas, Texas. The Dallas Morning News cited her as a "female Tom Waits" and in 2006 she was named Best Female Vocalist by Dallas' leading entertainment weekly.

With a wealth of life experiences from her various tours across the country, Krüger is also an engaging storyteller and essayist. She has contributed to Public Radio International's This American Life and even made a fan out of the show's host, Ira Glass. In addition to these efforts, Krüger has released four full-length albums.

On November 2nd, 2006, Kristy's brother died in Baghdad while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since that time, Kristy has been conducting a memorial tour in the hopes of accomplishing a goal Lt. Col. Eric Kruger did not live to reach...to visit every state in the union. She has also donated 20% of the profits from her shows to the Fisher House, a non-profit that cares for our wounded Veterans.

For more information about Kristy's life and music, please visit [www.kristykruger.com](http://www.kristykruger.com).

**Devon Hughes**  
**Techno Artist**

Devon Hughes has been rendering funkable machine code for ten years under the name Rhythm Droid. A self-taught electronic musician, he started out by experimenting with tape loops and out-of-vogue electronic instruments. Using a blend of vintage and cutting-edge devices, Devon has developed a sound that fuses elements of Japanese pop, 70's funk, and straight-up Detroit techno.

A firm believer in the DIY ethic, Devon has personally modified much of the hardware that makes his laptop-free live music performances possible. These performances push the boundaries of real-time man-machine interaction while still maintaining a dance-floor friendly groove. Such tracks as "Funk 469" highlight his ability to blend sonic ideas from urban architecture, with contemporary dance music.

Inspired by both the artificial and the metaphysical, Devon's creations strive to uncover the soul within his machine-based music. This pursuit has led to a distinct body of work that fascinates both mass audiences and hardcore techno enthusiasts.

For more information about Devon's life and music, please visit [www.myspace.com/rhythmdroid](http://www.myspace.com/rhythmdroid).

## The Production

Three Musicians emerged out of a chance encounter between singer-songwriter, Kristy Kruger and documentary editor, James Pike in 2002. After bumping into each other at a party in Los Angeles, James sat riveted for six hours, listening to Kristy spin yarns about her travels across the country, her odd assortment of friends and family, and the process by which she transformed these life experiences into memorable music. The following day, James began sketching out concepts for a visually-stylized documentary that would explore the creative process behind three little-known American musicians.

The filming process began that summer when James convinced his friend, Melissa Mills, to let him film her doing laundry. This silly but important exercise was used to develop a unique look for each musician that matched their artistic tastes.

Kristy loved the written word. She loved stories that twisted in time and slowly revealed truths about human behavior. The key to Kristy's sections became figuring out how to film a simple act in such a way that it would convey a sense of character through shot composition, jumps in time, and minimalist editing.

Devon Hughes, a techno musician that James met in college, was fascinated by the collision of disparate ideas and styles. How can architectural patterns become driving bass grooves? How can machine-made sounds express human desires? Fusing these ideas in the same visual space became the trick to capturing Devon's frenetic thought process on screen.

Kevin Pike, James' older brother, had the unique ability to extract music from his environment. An idea for a song would emerge out of play time with his daughter. The sound of a household item could become an audio track in a jazz recording. Looking at everyday life through a lens that was fresh and slightly off-beat was the solution to expressing how Kevin managed to constantly discover new sources of musical inspiration.

These techniques were tested for a period of nine months until mid-2003. That summer, James visited Kristy in New Orleans and started filming.

The first step in the filmmaking process was to collect original material from each musician. Kristy provided over two-thousand photographs, over 50 hours of home video recordings, and more than twenty years of journal entries. Devon granted access to several hundred pages of sketches and writings and over 250 hours of home video recordings. Kevin handed over 400 hours of home video recordings and over 300 hours of audio recordings. Over the next five years, an additional 200 hours of interviews and 150 hours of original footage were also collected. This mass of material was then worked and reworked in the editing room from 2004 to 2009. In the final 18 months, 15 hour days and 100 hour weeks were not uncommon. Though this editorial process was long and time-consuming, it was never dull or lacking in enthusiasm.

Three Musicians is scheduled for release in 2010. It is the first feature-length project from Cut and Spliced Productions.

## **The Filmmaker**

James Pike began studying music at age five. Despite early aspirations of becoming a professional sousaphonist, he transitioned into non-fiction filmmaking when he discovered his passion for the art form during an internship with PBS. In 2002, he graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. The following year, he joined an international public health research consortium and began producing short documentaries on such topics as, fast food consumption in urban China and community-based recovery among disaster victims in rural India. In 2008, he formed Cut and Spliced Productions, a multimedia company that assists organizations striving to do innovative work in the areas of public health, social justice, the environment, and the arts. Through this company, he has produced a variety of pieces including the feature-length documentary, *Three Musicians*.

Find out more at [www.cutandspliced.com](http://www.cutandspliced.com).