

2-1 Spring-Summer 2009

SamMasich.com ❖ Little Productions

STRANGE HORSE

Schedule ❖ News ❖ Reviews ❖ Music ❖ Art

What's new:

- ❖ Spring/Summer 2009 SamSchedule
- ❖ Feature Teacher: Karin Collins
- ❖ New CD: Lucky Time
- ❖ Deity and Disciple: New Brush Paintings!
- ❖ Book Review: Qigong Fever



WELCOME TO STRANGE HORSE

Strange Horse is also online as a downloadable .pdf file at SamMasich.com. Find out about Sam's workshop/concert schedule, instructional DVDs, music, articles, book reviews & special offers.

STRANGE HORSE NEWS

Welcome to Strange Horse. As you read through, you can click directly on the [hyperlinks](#) to SamMasich.com for more info.

In this last year I found a wonderful place in Berlin and am gradually settling into the European way of life. This is reflected in my schedule which will see me in *Hannover, Germany; Brighton, England; Madrid, Spain; Acebo, Spain* and *Stirling, Scotland*. Highlights will include the 3rd Annual 4 Day **Madrid Push Hands Camp**, the ever wonderful **Tai Chi Caledonia** event in Scotland and the **International Taichichuan Festival** in Acebo-Cáceres, Spain.

This is not to say I won't be in North America however. In May and October I will be knocking on doors in *Ontario (Campbellville, Kitchener, Peterborough), Gatineau, Quebec* and dear old *Vancouver BC*. (hopefully with a visit to Prince George, BC as well.)

This summer will see the 18th Annual **Vancouver Push Hands Camp** and I guarantee it will be a memorable event—Camp 1 'The Square'; Camp 2 'The Diagonal'. In these we will distill many years of study of the 25 Energies down to the bare essentials.

In **DVD News** you'll find a link to info on the FREE 20 Year of Internal Arts Programs.

In **Music News** there is an preview of Sam's newest CD in the works: '**Lucky Time**'. You'll find excerpts from a nice review of *Cow!* on a Dutch folk and alternative music site. Also special prices also on SamSongs music.

This edition's **Book Review** features David A. Palmer's *Qigong Fever*.



FEATURE TEACHER: KARIN COLLINS

It took a 3500 mile trip to the heart of Mexico to discover the heart of the Yang-style Taijiquan curriculum. I recently completed the 2009 Intensive with Sam and my dedicated, warm-hearted and funny amigos from around the world.

I'd heard San Miguel de Allende referred to as the heart of México because it was a center for independence from the Spanish conquest. This vibrant, charming, firework-popping and fiesta-throwing town was a fitting backdrop for our study.

Having come to study the full curriculum of the art, I had some expectation we'd start at the beginning, from the *Gongli* to the spear. Linear study was not the plan—rather we were patiently encouraged and led from one thread to the next, revealing the complex web we were in. Soon there was a communal recognition that our scrupulous study of individual parts revealed a complex hologram in which each aspect relates to and contains the spirit of the Whole.

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SamMasich.com

Get Sam's DVDs & CDs online through PayPal!

Wish us good qi! (This intensive is now filled)

五段太極拳

2009 • 5 Section Taijiquan
Full Curriculum Intensive
Madrid, Spain

Nov. 20—Dec. 14, 2009

(en Español)

DVD NEWS:

* **FREEBIE!** *

Email for a FREE DVD:

20 Years of

Internal Arts Programs

with Sam Masich & friends

• **In progress:**

Sam Masich: Best of Demos

Currently in the works, this first Little Productions 'Best of' program features several of Sam's hottest demos in North America and China with some of the top internal martial arts performers of our time. Highlights include Sam with Liang Shouyu, Yang Jwing Ming and Chang Chung-jen as well as ground breaking neijia improv. *Special Features* on DVD will include an optional 'Commentary On'.

• **You can still pay by cheque for DVDs and CDs.** Some folks have trouble with using *PayPal* or ordering with a credit card online. You can mail or email your order and send a cheque or money order to:

Little Productions 5111 Station Main, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 4A9



TIDBITS:

- **Private Lessons:** Interested in putting your Taiji progress on a faster track? Check the [private lesson page](#) on the website.
- **Yang Intensive II in China:** Sam is currently beginning plans for a Yang-style Taijiquan Full Curriculum Intensive level II in China! In about 3 years.

A great TEN weeks!

2009 Yang-style Taijiquan Full Curriculum Intensive in San Miguel

Jan. 12-Mar. 28 2009

Congratulations to the 11 dedicated individuals who completed the program.

Dorian Gregory

(Sunderland, USA)

Karin Collins

(Seattle, USA)

Mary Hansell

(Campellville, Canada)

Trude J. H. Smoor

(Painte Post, USA)

Simon Robins

(Brighton, England)

Erik Báez

(México City, Mexico)

Ed Cooper

(Vancouver, Canada)

Bobby Kaplan

(San Miguel de Allende, México)

Javier Arnanz

(Madrid, Spain)

Declan King

(Vancouver, Canada)

Tony Galis

(Santa Cruz, USA)

FEATURE TEACHER

Karin Collins continued:

I learned that at the center of this web—the heart—is the study of four-hands and *dalü*. Understanding the square and lateral energies, the crux of this art, gives relevance to the rest of the curriculum. And, as it turns out, just as San Miguel was the heart of independence for its country, four-hands and *dalü* are our secret to freedom.



Once we achieve this understanding, we have the freedom and potential to improvise fluidly like a visual artist or jazz musician.

I'm grateful to have spent time in the heart of Mexico because I left with a tremendous sense of freedom, in my art and in my life. El Corazon de Yang Taijiquan—the fire is burning now!

Karin Collins is a taijiquan & qigong teacher in the Pacific Northwest, USA. Find her at:

KarinCollins.com

太極刀劍槍

announcing:

2010 San Miguel Taiji Weapons Intensive

San Miguel de Allende, MX

Feb. 1 to 18, 2010

An intensive course designed for **students of Taijidao, Taijijian and Taijiqiang.**

The three classical weapons of Yang-style Taijiquan: **sabre, sword and spear,** will be presented over three four-day week-ends. Each of the four day sessions will offer one of the weapons from the perspective of solo and partner training.



Why San Miguel?

Stay tuned for more info and eligibility criteria. **Contact Sam**



Click for **YouTube** and **GoogleVideo** clips of Sam in workshops, behind-the-scenes, playing music & Tai Chi'ing on (& in) large steel span structures!



MUSIC & OTHER ART:

Cow!
Cinematic
Diamond Space
Blue Manifesto
Why It Happens
Different Standards

Check out
Sam's Discography

'SamSongs'
All Sam's music is
currently special priced!

Click here!

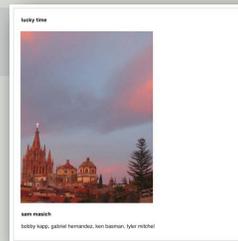


ANNOUNCING

Lucky Time

While in San Miguel de Allende, I recorded ten songs with jazz great **Bobby Kapp** (drums), master Cuban pianist **Gabriel Hernandez** (piano), NY veteran **Tyler Mitchel** (bass) and the incredible **Ken Basman** (guitar).

The album features new treatments of several of my oldies but goodies previously recorded by other artists. Songs include: *Roses on a River*, *Diamond Space* (co-written with Michael Friedman) and *June*, as well as previously unrecorded songs: *Berlin Boy* and *Blues & You & Me*. Look for **Lucky Time** in the summer of 2009.



Deity and Disciple: The Zhenwu / Zhang Sanfeng Series

Starting with the May Canadian tour, Sam will be bringing a limited number of his new one-stroke brush paintings of the mythical founder of taijiquan, **Zhang Sanfeng**, and **Zhen Wu**, the deity he venerated. (Signed original pieces ranging from \$200-400 CDN) • [find detailed info here](#)



26x36cm



Cow!

Excerpts of a review by:
Johanna J. Boyde (Holland)
New Insurgent Country

Everybody & everything is present: *Richard Nixon, JFK, the CIA, God and the Devil, Baghdad, the American Dream, World War 3, Hitler, Stalin, Ghandi*—but it all makes sense and never ends up in ranting.

Sam himself has a slightly hoarse, throaty voice, that I like a lot. His emphatic delivery of the lyrics is impressive and urges one to listen; he also plays various guitars. Every track has a completely different sound—from just an acoustic guitar to accompaniments of percussion & piano, a waltz with violin, an uptempo piece ending on something Cuban, the cynical version of a marching band, folk-noire with piano, electric guitar in sturdy folk-rock to world-jazz and folk-jazz, the wonderful backing vocals of Glenda Rae, all ending with a hidden track of improvised jazz.

Like I said, "Cow!" is for the advanced listeners, who will put the disc in heavy rotation—mooco...



SAM'S SCHEDULE

SPRING & SUMMER 2009

For detailed descriptions and contact info on the following events go to the [calendar](#) at [SamMasich.com](#)
Stay tuned for new event listings.

April:

Madrid, Spain

Fri. Apr 24 - Sun. Apr. 26

- Empuje de manos
- Cuatro manos en Dalu
- Introducción al Taijidado

Más información en:

Javier Arnanz (+34)647697952
[aprendeTaiChi.com](#)

May: Canada Tour

- Campbellville, Ontario

Fri. May 8 - Sun. May 10

2 Tai Chi Seminars: 'Secrets of the Taiji Circle'; Taijiquan 25 Energies Series (#6)

Contact: Mary Hansell
905-854-0314

- Kitchener, Ontario

Mon. May 11 (One night only)
Yang 54 Sword (Refine & Review)

- Peterborough, Ontario

Fri. May 15 - Mon. May 18

7th Annual Peterborough Taiji Push Hands Camp (4 days!)

contact/preregister: Jean Kirk
705-750-1756

- Gatineau, Quebec

Fri. May 22 - Sun. May 24

les 25 Énergies du Tai chi chuan (Atelier#2)

Contact/preregister:

Réal Lalande 819-778-0147

- Vancouver, B.C.

Sat May 30 - Sun May 31

Empty & Full in the 37 Essential Forms

Contact/preregister:

Michael Blackburn 778-228-3500

June/July UK Stops

- Brighton, England

Fri. June 12 - Sun June 14

Classical Taiji Push-hands

contact: Simon Robins

- Stirling, Scotland

Tai Chi Caledonia 2009

Fri July 3 - Fri July 10

Jue-shou and beyond

Location: Stirling Univ. Campus

Cost: see website for details:

[www.taichicaldonia.com](#)

Contact: Ronnie Robertson

July/August 2009

18th Annual Vancouver Push Hands Camps

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Fri July 24 - Mon July 27

Camp 1: 'The Square'

Fri July 31 - Mon Aug. 3

Camp 2: 'The Diagonal'

to register contact: Sam



[more info](#)

August: Sam in Spain

Madrid, España

Agosto Viernes 14-Lunes 17

El Tercero Anual Campamento de 4 días de Empuje de Manos:

Serie de 25 Energías

(english) 3rd Annual

Madrid Push Hands Camp

25 Energies Series:

Fri. Aug. 14 - Mon. Aug. 17

Más información en (Contact):

Javier (+34) 647 69 79 52
[aprendetaichi.com](#)

Lalita (Acebo-Cácares), Spain

International Taichichuan

Festival in Spain

September 3-6

Sam's workshop details at:

[SamMasich.com](#)

Contact: Enrique Alario or Lalita

BOOK REVIEW:

Qigong Fever David A. Palmer

Recommendation by Sam Masich

Remember the eighties taiji-qigong scene? A new wave of alternative publishing—propped up in large part by the desktop computer revolution—ushered in the 'New Age' movement.

This interfaced perfectly with qigong and martial arts material coming from the recently de-Mao'ed People's Republic of China. One might well have thought from the many reports of qigong science coming from China, that the time of mankind's rebirth was at hand. It did kind of feel like it at moments.

What David Palmer presents in his ground and myth breaking book, is a look at what was going on behind the scenes—socially, politically and structurally—in China's qigong scene throughout the 1980s and 90s. He discusses at length the 'in favour' and 'out of favour' cycles that determined the acceptance and promotion of various qigong sects, focusing on some of the most prevalent and influential trends.

As well, Palmer provides us with background info on some of the most charismatic qigong leaders to have 'come down from the mountain', preaching a utopianism to be accomplished through the development of 'extraordinary powers'.

To learn the connection between China's nuclear weapons and qigong programs or understand the back-story on why there is a Falungong booth in front of almost every Chinese consulate in the world, read this book!

Qigong Fever

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Columbia University Press

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356 pages



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