



Biography: *Xylos is a co-ed, aurally adventurous five-piece orgy of pop from New York, their music characterized by four-part vocal harmonies, complex orchestration, and a large variety of instruments and electronics. The music of Xylos has been compared to that of the Shins, Paul Simon, and Fleetwood Mac (though one suspects the latter is due partially to the gender breakdown of the band). The band is Eric Zeiler, Nikki Lancy, Aaron Mendelsohn, Monika Heidemann, and Mike Greenfield. Their debut EP, Bedrooms, was composed and performed primarily by Eric Zeiler and features guest vocals by Ira Wolf Tuton and Anand Wilder of the Brooklyn band Yeasayer. Xylos is currently at work on their debut full-length, with Britt Myers (Chairlift, Essex Green) producing.*

the deli

music recipes from the big apple



Published on Tue, 11 Nov 2008

NYC band on the rise: Xylos



New York-based pop band [Xylos](#) (a variation of the founder's last name) began as Eric Zeiler's lyrics. The wordsmith then recruited vocalists Aaron Mendelsohn and Nikki Lancy to sing his songs for a five-track EP, *Bedrooms*. Originally a solo project, Zeiler decided to round things out, inviting two more musicians to join the group; drummer Mike Greenfield and bassist Monika Heidemann. The quintet captured the hearts – and ears – of the Mercury Lounge crowd at their first show a few weeks back. At times upbeat tropical, at other times methodic downtrodden (and always textured), their music spans a vast spectrum, perfect for multiple personality listeners – and lovers.

Lyrically, "In The Bedroom" proves frighteningly relatable with its cynical, albeit accurate, analysis of modern-day "dating." Delivered via a buoyant beat, it leaves me not so much discouraged, but more so shoulder shrugging, as if to acquiesce, "eh, what else can be expected?" It encapsulates the human condition, in particular the female mentality, attitude and actions. That the poet calls Manhattan home is far from surprising.

Another favorite, "Testament" features Zeiler's somber, beautiful keyboard, precise strumming (both acoustic and electric) and drumming. It offers something different from the aforementioned number and, at upwards of six minutes and the last track on the disc, leaves a lasting impression. Cue it to 3:45 and prepare to be pleasantly surprised.

8 NYC Bands You Need to Hear: 2009

During the song “Wrapped in a Page” from *Bedrooms*, the debut EP by Brooklyn band Xylos, Eric Zeiler sings the line “You said you found me aloof/But I never had claimed to be anything else.” And aside from it being a pretty good line in a song that sounds like it could have been a collaboration between Andrew Bird and the Shins, it’s also a bit strange. Zeller, and Xylos as a whole, really, comes off as anything but aloof. The songs on the EP (which they’re giving away for free on their website, xylosmusic.net) are marked by nothing if not an overwhelming feeling of warmth and comforting familiarity. The arrangements, which lean as heavily on electronics as they do on xylophone and lightly strummed acoustic guitars, are consistently surprising, and with the stellar boy-girl vocal melodies that pop up all over the place, the general vibe is relaxed — not boring, mind you, but relaxed, as in, “I’m going to listen to this while I sit outside on my porch this morning, the summer sun shining on my face as I close my eyes and realize that everything is just lovely.”



Xylos

6 May 2009
Woofmedia.net

Xylos’ *Bedrooms* EP is a redolent offering of baroque pop, harmonized in a most pleasing way. Indeed, **Eric Zeiler**, founder, has assembled a fine set of ‘freak folk’ — comparable to acts like **Alaska in Winter** and **Yeastayer** — including a full band and notable appearances (on *Bedrooms*) by **Ira Wolf Tuton** and **Anand Wilder** of Yeasayer. More importantly, *Bedrooms* is already one of the year’s most sonically innovative releases. “Wrapped in a Page” sails on something like a breeze; an organic arrangement of hymn-like harmonies and syncopated guitar picking, while “This House We Built” is a gallop through starry keyboard textures and a left-field percussion arrangement that elicits the sound of horse hoofs on gravel.

Xylos are also among the current pioneers of self-sustained marketing, having released the *Bedrooms* EP for **FREE NINETY-NINE (\$0.00)** exclusively on their [website](#)! The recession is NOT a valid excuse to overlook this shit.



Great New Brooklyn Band...

Xylos @ Pianos

With summer coming there is a need for new sunny tunes to blast out of the car as ride with your windows down and lay by the pool. Xylos is that band for you! Their whimsical indie pop that burst with good vibes and delicious hooks. Tonight they play Pianos, it's definitely a show you don't wanna miss!



Xylos – June 27, 2009 issue

Brooklyn buzzers Xylos released their EP, Bedrooms, last year with a little vocal help from Yeasayer. (Download it for free here: xylosmusic.net.) Xylos's music is more straightforward folk than the neotribalism of Yeasayer, but its combination of stripped-down melodies and intricate song structures is just as intriguing.



June 27, 2009

So it's Friday night, the Northside Festival isn't for another two weeks, and you're seriously looking to see one of this year's "8 NYC Bands You Need to Hear." We understand, and we're here to help. Xylos is playing late-night at Pianos, by which point you will be just the right amount of drunk for their gorgeous, folksy indie-pop to hit home in ways you can't even imagine.

SoundProof

Quick & Dirty - Xylos

By: Andrea Grassi

Feb. 17, 2009 – New York, United States

What started as a solo project of scrawling Haiku for Eric Zeiler, evolved into *Bedrooms* – a debut EP from New York-based, and newly formed, Xylos. Taking a "bottom-up" approach to the music scene, Zeiler recruited musicians to fit his vision and words, creating a five-spun mix of eclectic music threads. "The music is secondary," he jokes. "It just serves as a way for me to make millions to support my [writing]."

Playing together are childhood friends Mike Greenfield and Aaron Mendelsohn, with female parts Nikki Lancy and Monika Heidemann (a harmonious find on Craigslist). It's almost hard to believe the tracks grow from one cohesive project – the CD sliding in and out of styles and moods – though it does manage to accomplish a linear feel overall.

"Lyrically, a lot of the same ideas carry through the EP," says Zeiler. "The simultaneous (or rapidly shifting) sense of happiness and sadness that characterises many of the elements of my life: the people I have known, the cities in which I have lived. I try to capture both extremes within the context of individual songs."

Indie-inclined ears may have heard the somewhat title track, "In the Bedroom" – chiming with an organ melody and light drums – on CBC Radio 2 or the Indie Rock Café. Zeiler describes the transition of the songs and cohesiveness of the EP as something that stems from percussion. "Much of my background is in electronic music," he explains. "I tend to approach music from a rhythmic perspective."

Xylos' sound has been widely described as beach-like and sun-inspired, a feel Zeiler was unaware of when writing it. And there is a beach feel, most evident in the outdoor roaming acoustics on "Yellow Flip-Flops" (though, ironically, not in connection with the song's mention of summer apparel). "I never thought of the music as 'summery' before all the blogs started referring to it that way," says Zeiler, puzzled by the connection.

Of course it probably doesn't help that on the cover of the CD is a girl, sashaying on a sandy beach, dressed in a blue bikini gazing at her bare feet. Too literal an analysis by critics perhaps, but Zeiler did aim for an outdoorsy feel – at least in one instance. "I live in Manhattan, which is not much of a wildlife Mecca," he admits. "Regardless, I placed a microphone out my bedroom window and crossed my fingers. I put on headphones and waited (and waited) for a bird to show up and start singing on my fire escape."

However unintended, Zeiler maintains openness to the new musical perspective: "Summer is my favourite season. Our newest song is called 'When Summer Comes', so I'm sure that will do much to help matters." Another facet of open thought is their decision to make *Bedrooms* a 100% free download. Why? "Free is sexy," says Zeiler.

And sexy is their future. Their debut LP is already half-finished and a colder season, autumn, will propel Xylos and their well-crafted, electronically hinted, vibes to the UK and Europe.

Bring on the rain and amber leaves – just as long as it means more Xylos.



Integrated melodies define Xylos

Published on December 3, 2008



Don't let the term pop confuse you. For something familiar to a general music-lover and something comfortable to a musician, one major difference remains - one can be popular and the other can be inspirational. For Brooklyn's Xylos this inspiration speaks to a sound attuned to a vast number of pop bands from across the board.

From their album *Bedrooms*, the five artists showcased a harmony reminiscent of campfire cajolery. The recording work does cut out the crackling and the laughing but the essence remains. Songs such as "Yellow Flip-Flops" and "Wrapped in a Page" capture this friendly atmosphere as clapping, tambourines and group singing attract the most attention while more classic instruments such as the cello and viola softly refine the edges.

Xylos is compiled of Eric Zeiler, Nikki Lancy, Aaron Mendelsohn, Monika Heidemann and Mike Greenfield. To download the *Bedrooms* album, head [here](#) or check out their Facebook page for more songs and info.



Kingsley Clan Blog – 12/20/08

Xylos are a band from New York and if they never put out another song they will still have achieved greatness with "In the Bedroom."

PUDDLEGUM

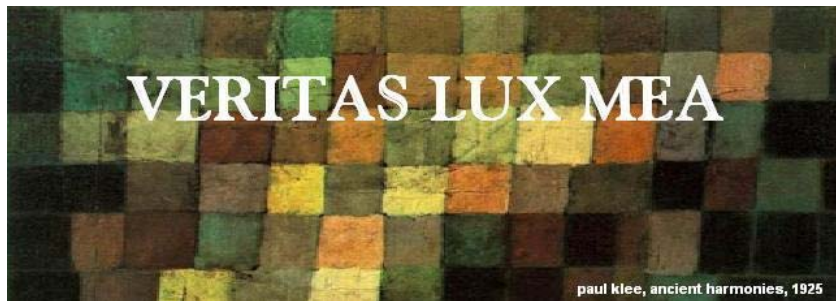
[Xylos: Bedrooms EP is a pleasant surprise](#)

There is a new Brooklyn band called **Xylos** who are giving their *Bedrooms* EP away as a free download. **Eric Zeiler** wrote and recorded most of the five tracks, with **Ira Wolf Tuton** and **Anand Wilder** of **Yeastayer** offering guest vocals. Xylos is now a five-piece band poised to grab attention in '09.

Bedrooms opens with *In The Bedroom*, a song about a girl whose life was “left in shambles,” after a stay with a guy she had met earlier that day. Eric Zeiler seems to pull from late '60s early '70s folk-rock (such as **Crosby, Stills & Nash**), with strong harmonies reflective of **Simon and Garfunkel**'s *Bookends*, occasional hints of **The Beach Boys** (the gentle “oohs” in *Testament*) mixed with a blend of **The Shins**. At times Xylos reminds us of **Andrew Bird** in his vocal delivery, song structures and acoustic guitar strumming.

Wrapped In A Page showcases Xylos' eclectic instrumentation. Eric beautifully balances the use of banjo, wooden xylophone, cello and violin, acoustic, hand drums and slight use of analogue synth. The birds chirping in *Yellow Flip-Flops* add more than just an outdoor element, they help paint bright colors as the song eventually ends with a melody tinged in bluegrass. *Testament* adds Rhodes, piano, organ, and surprises you with a lead guitar.

Do yourself a favour and download *Bedrooms* by **Xylos** from their website or visit them on Myspace/Facebook. If you live in New York, don't miss them this Saturday (Dec. 20, 2008) at **Pianos**.



We've been mired in a fairly long cold spell here in Northern Wisconsin with no quick end in sight. Luckily, we've got hot chocolate and the warm, breezy, and at times, tropical sound that is the New York band **Xylos** for listening this Sunday afternoon.

The *Bedrooms EP*, available as a free download over at the band's site, features 5 tracks from the New York pop group, and features vocals by another great New York band, [Yeastayer](#).

If you're in the Big Apple, you can catch Xylos January 24th at the [Music Hall of Williamsburg](#).

For those that can't catch the shows, stop by the [Xylos website](#) or [Myspace page](#) to download or stream the *Bedrooms EP* for yourself. Pair with a Mai Tai and some flip flops for a truly more summer-like experience.

FXXR

Tuesday, December 23, 2008

[Xylos Rhymes With Creamy, Summer Style](#)

[[[When I ran across Veritas Lux Mea's Xylos post, it totally jogged my memory of the post I was working on a couple of days ago. A post for the hard-working New Yorkers who make it seem like it's forever summer even though it's so damn cold Wesley Snipes' wallet froze without help from the government.]]]

Xylos, not to be confused with Zykos, is a New York band of a throwback, glistening style. Think "Graceland" sublimated with The Album Leaf. With every note there's an obvious notion that there's more at work than just notes and lyrics. It's as if they know something you don't and are trying to let you in on the secret without letting you down easy. As a listener of all things pure indie, I cannot help but wonder, "Why is this band still unsigned?"

Happy Days Are Here Again (Italy)

[Xylos](#)

Gli Xylos sono un quintetto folk pop proveniente da Brooklyn, N.Y. e recentemente hanno pubblicato un E.P., intitolato "Bedrooms", [scaricabile gratuitamente dal loro sito ufficiale](#).

L'esordio discografico della band è di quelli che fanno davvero ben sperare per il futuro: la capacità di scrittura è sopra la media, ottime sono le armonie vocali, che rimandano al folk dei tardi anni '60 e decisamente azzeccati risultano gli arrangiamenti.

Da segnalare la presenza di Anand Wilder e Ira Wolf Tuton (Yeasayer), ospiti vocali nel brano "Wrapped In A Page".





The Mild Mannered Rumbblings Of A Few Dandy Folk

Xylos

Published on December 6, 2008



Xylos's music isn't easily pigeonholed, which is great for the listener but not so great for the blogger. Their debut EP, **Bedrooms**, is a fairly downbeat number. Gettin' somewhere! Unlike most slow and meandering songs, though, these ones do not cause mind-numbing boredom.

The singer for Yeasayer, who I've written about before, does some guest vocals on *Wrapped In A Page*, and does them quite well. I was expecting something, well, *weirder*, and I'm glad what I received was different. It is indeed the most accessible song of the bunch; perhaps because it's faster-paced, or perhaps due to its tropical influences. *Yellow Flip-Flops* also borrows Yeasayer's singer and has tropical influences, and even adds some great female vocals, but it's not as fast-paced or as accessible. Mystery solved! Since I haven't mentioned any lyrics on here in a while, *Testament* has a cool lyric in "I left home to find myself a home." Chew on that one for a while!

Also, if you like this music a whole lot, and you live in or near New York, they have a show on the 20th of this month and you should go see it. You can find the details and download the rest of their EP from their website.



Sélection de mp3 – POPNEWS (songs of the week)

1. XYLOS - [In the Bedroom](#)

Eric Zeiler vient de Brooklyn, et sous le pseudo de Xylos il fait une musique pop légère et pleine d'influences ensoleillées et campagnardes. "In the Bedroom" est extrait de son premier ep et fera très rapidement partie de vos morceaux favoris. Il est en écoute sur POPnews en attendant une chronique rapide.



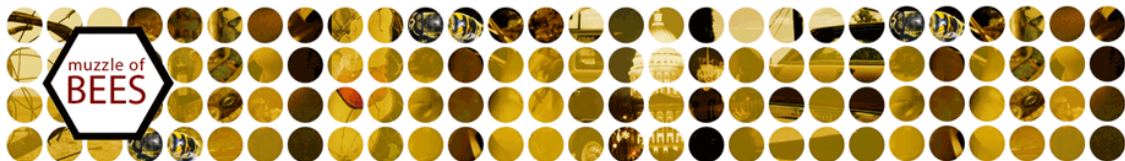
[\[mpFree\] Xylos - Bedrooms EP](#)

Published December 8, 2008

[Xylos](#) is one of an endless number of New York indie/pop/folk collectives that will aim to capture your attention in 2009. Beginning as a bedroom pop project from founding member/lyricist Eric Zeiler, Xylos later blossomed with the addition of vocalists Aaron Mendelsohn and Nikki Lancy, drummer Mike Greenfield, and bassist Monika Heidemann, as well as contributions from **Yeasayer** singers Anand Wilder and Ira Wolf Tuton.

As you can imagine what a Brooklyn-based folk/pop quintet (with help from Yeasayer) might sound like, Xylos produces a swell of melodic jams and tropical beats spanning numerous genres across their 5-song introductory *Bedrooms* EP. I'm always timid at first when pursuing a NY band, but there's no denying the charm of these guys, especially with a song like "In The Bedroom."

You can grab the whole *Bedrooms* EP for free [here](#). Look for a debut sometime in early 2009.



[Xylos :: Bedroom EP](#)

Published on November 24, 2008



After a few quick spins through Xylos's tracks on myspace, I downloaded their *Bedrooms* EP. Quickly rising to the top was the first track, "In The Bedroom," grab it for yourself as a free and legal MP3 below. A refreshing and melodic listen that makes you forget the winter's wrath is forthcoming.