

Music: Via Chicago

Tuning in with Thomas Conner

Demo2DeRo: Jesse Palter & the Alter Ego

By Jim DeRogatis on November 4, 2009 4:17 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(13\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)



It's hard to ignore a pitch like, "Think pop like Coca-Cola, think raw fun like Ecstasy, think catchy like a lacrosse stick," if only because you want to counter, "No way this band is going to sound like that much fun!" But sure enough, Jesse Palter & the Alter Ego deliver on those promises with a strong four-song EP currently streaming on the Web at www.facebook.com/palterego and www.palterego.com. Vocalist Jesse Palter and multi-instrumentalist Sam Barsh began their collaboration in 2006. Both had enviable reputations in the jazz world--Palter was named "Outstanding Jazz Vocalist" for three years in a row at the Detroit Music Awards before moving to Chicago, while Barsh has played with names such as Cassandra Wilson, Bobby McFerrin and The Brand New Heavies--but the goal of the Alter Ego was to bring their considerable chops to the often simplistic genre of dance-pop, creating irresistible hooks and undeniable grooves that are as smart and sophisticated as they are silly good-time fun.

In other words, Lady Gaga, watch out! (The band recently played Martyr's; watch its Web sites for other upcoming gigs.)

THOMAS CONNER



Thomas Conner covers pop music for the Chicago Sun-Times. Contact him via [e-mail](#).

SEARCH

Search

Find recent content on the [main index](#) or look in the [archives](#) to find all content.

RECENT COMMENTS

[The King](#) commented on [U2 reschedules at Soldier Field: 7/5/11: U2 have be](#)

[Bob Soper](#) commented on [Demo2DeRo: Kory Quinn and the Comrades: I know Kor](#)
[edgar](#) commented on [Pitchfork Music Festival schedule and highlights: I fully ag](#)

[Mike M](#) commented on [Pitchfork Music Festival schedule and highlights: One of the](#)

[livy brown<333](#) commented on [Chris Brown, "Graffiti" \(Jive\) \[1 STAR out of 4\]: This is so](#)

[Joe](#) commented on [Second Rush show nixed by weather, will reschedule: the rain s](#)

[joanie](#) commented on [Second Rush show nixed by weather, will reschedule: I called T](#)

[Michael Jackson Halloween Costumes](#) commented on [Where does Michael Jackson fit in the pop pantheon?: I have a l](#)

[gus](#) commented on [Kanye West shows off a little of his old "Power": I think he](#)

[Tev](#) commented on [Kanye West shows off a little of his old "Power": Kanye perf](#)

RECENT ENTRIES

[Music pirates: Rockford band competes for credit score ads](#)

[U2 reschedules at Soldier Field:](#)