

# Alien Chatter Bio

Alien Chatter is the unexpected duo of Indian percussionist **Satnam Singh Ramgotra** and jazz/funk keyboardist **Rodney Lee**. Their sonic emissions are a sophisticated blend of atmospheric electronic textures and exotic rhythms. **It's an eclectic mix of Indian Tabla drums, acoustic jazz piano, synths, beatbox, spoken word in a primordial soup of electronics.**

The group has two CDs, "Music for Aliens" (released in 2003), and "Invasion" (released in 2007).

Alien Chatter goes beyond the recent influx of Indian music that has been more beat/club driven, and brings the Jazz element back into the mix. Every composition is an experiment in the **melding of North Indian Classical rhythms, Bhangra and Jazz/electronica genres.**

In the tradition of Indo-Jazz and world electronic artists such as **John McLaughlin, Shakti, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Zakir Hussain,** and **Talvin Singh,** Alien Chatter is forging new ground with it's unique modern take on East meets West.

Canadian born and raised, **Satnam Ramgotra** is a drummer/percussionist blending traditional drum set with Indian, African, and World Percussion elements into modern musical environments.

His formal training on both drum set and Indian Classical Tabla started at the age of ten. Throughout his school years, Satnam performed and competed in regional and national band festivals across Canada, where he was repeatedly singled out and received many awards for his talents. Satnam later relocated to California to further his musical ambitions at the renowned **Percussion Institute of Technology,** and soon thereafter began performing live and recording with many of his instructors.

Studying the Tabla under renowned Tabla maestro, **Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri**, Satnam expanded his experience with percussion to include frame drums, African percussion, dumbek, congas, and 'tinkertoys' Playing with the legendary **Ustad Salamat Ali Khan** helped Satnam refine his tabla stylings.

Satnam has performed as a guest artist, and toured with world-renowned artists in the past sixteen years, including **Nikka Costa, Beck, Sting, Seal**, Lili Haydn, Steve Vai, Jada Pinkett-Smith & Wicked Wisdom, and **Ustad Shafquat Ali Khan**. He has recorded with **Macy Gray**, The Calling, Plastilina Mosh, Lee Ritenour, Carmen Rizzo, Niyaz, Michael Brook, the late Kevin Gilbert, Bitter:Sweet, Wayne Jones, Carl Stevenson, POE, Torrell Ruffin, FreakJuice, Danny Peck, Lamya, Michael Landau, Dionesis Savvopoulos, Donna Delory, Slapbak, Rick Boston, Nikos Kippergos, David Lynch, Peter Himmelman, Harold Kloser, Jeff Rona, Haddaway, Martin Tillman, and Geoff Emmerick. Satnam's credits also include TV's "**The Tonight Show** with Jay Leno", "The Late Late Show" with Craig Ferguson, the "Rosie O' Donnell Show", "CBS Morning Show", "Late World with Zack", The Radio Music Awards (2001), "The Wayne Brady Show", "M.D's (ABC/Disney), and BBC's "Top of the Pops". In addition, Satnam regularly works with Hollywood's "**A-list**" **film composer's**: **Hans Zimmer, James Newton-Howard, John Powell**, Aaron Zigman, Atli Orvarsson, and Alberto Iglesias. His Motion Picture Film credits include; "Hancock", "**Black Hawk Down**", "John Q", "Zoolander", "Matchstick Men", "**Kite Runner**", "Charlie Wilson's War", "Vantage Point", "Babylon A.D.", "A Bridge to Terebithia", "The Burning Plain", "**Madagascar 2**", "**The Dark Knight**", "Monsters vs Aliens", and most recently, "Angels & Demons"..

In 2007 and 2008, Satnam appeared at the **Hollywood Bowl** for the 40th anniversary of the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band Album with legendary Cheap Trick, accompanied by the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra.

Satnam has also significant international clinic & teaching experience at Poly-Rhythmos School of Music (Athens, Greece), The Jazz School of Luzerne (Luzerne, Switzerland), Sikh Society

of Saskatoon (Saskatoon, Canada), and the Musicians Institute (Hollywood, CA), in addition to teaching drums and tabla locally, as time permits.

**Rodney Lee** is a keyboard player, producer, and recording artist living in Los Angeles. He has made a name for himself in L.A. circles as a remarkably versatile player. He is equally at home in jazz, R&B, funk, pop, and electronica. Rodney's sound is honed from years of work on the road and in the studio with diverse artists such as Anastacia, Jody Watley, Mindi Abair, Chante Moore, El DeBarge, Dakota Moon, Chris Standring, Marc Antoine, Terence Trent D'Arby, The Solsonics, The B-Sharp Jazz Quartet, Freddie Hubbard, and the Jazz Crusaders.

In 1994, Rodney began a five-year stint with the critically acclaimed L.A. based **post-bop jazz group B-Sharp**. He recorded three CD's with B-Sharp and toured extensively through America and Europe. In May 1996 Sonic Images records released an acid jazz project entitled "solarsystem" written and produced by Rodney and Chris Standring. In 1998, Lee produced **soul jazz vocalist Jeff Robinson's** debut release "Any Shade of Blue" for Wild West Records. The CD was released to rave reviews, surpassing expectations from abroad (London). Also in 1998, Rodney co-produced the debut release for **jazz guitarist Chris Standring**. The first single from which reached the top 10 on the Gavin/R&R charts.

The new millennium has seen four new releases from Chris Standring -- singles from all four CDs reached the top ten on the radio charts. Rodney has also co-produced three CDs for pop soul diva Jody Watley. The latest single from Jody Watley's "Makeover" CD reached the **top 5 on Billboard's Club/Dance chart in 2008**. In addition, there was the release of his first solo record of soul and jazz infused electronica entitled "Innocent Bystander". Rodney completed production on Jeff Robinson's sophomore release "Eyewitness" which was released in 2005. In the past few years, Rodney has begun **composing music for television and film**. He scored the reality based show "Beyond Tough" for The Learning Channel (TLC). The show, hosted by

**Ice T**, began airing in September 2002.

Currently, Rodney can be seen on tour with contemporary **jazz saxophonist Mindi Abair**, as **musical director for Jody Watley**, or performing with one of his latest solo projects: **Alien Chatter** is a unique blend of **Jazz and Asian Underground**, and **The Satellite Orchestra** is a cinematic journey into jazz-tronica with Lee navigating from a Fender Rhodes electric piano.

Rodney's music has become a regular on **KCRW**, Los Angeles' premiere radio station for modern music. In addition to the above, Rodney's television appearances include **The Tonight Show**, BBC's Top of the Pops, **The Today Show**, Good Morning America, The Rosie O' Donnell Show, and **Entertainment Tonight**.

Finally, Rodney has released an e-book entitled "**Money Magic for Musicians**". It's all about how to achieve a life-long AND prosperous career in the arts. Yes, you can actually build wealth while doing it!

Rodney began studying piano at age 10. After earning both a **B.S. and M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering**, Rodney spent a few years as an integrated circuit designer for Bell Laboratories. However, his musical ambition inspired Lee to leave corporate America and pursue a career in music. Heralding from Austin, Texas with a background in both classical and jazz piano, Rodney relocated to Los Angeles in the 1990's to take his music talents to a wider audience.