

Press Release

Journalist Barry Drogin Culls On-Line Resources for New York City Residents

Journalist, musician, and engineer Barry Drogin has launched a COVID-19: NYC Resource page at <<http://www.notnicemusic.com/pandemic.html>>.

"After a lot of time figuring out how to get to specific resources, and discovering others, I've started this page with direct links. The worst was when the governor said the doctor guidelines for testing were public, but they were removed from the state website and now each locality has their own doctor guidelines - Google doesn't know this yet!"

The website came after a dramatic week. On Sunday, March 19, 2020, NYC announced that schools would be closed the next day.

"I just happened to turn on the radio at the exact moment that WNYC was preempting their news for the news conference where Mayor de Blasio announced the closure. My company works for the NYC School Construction Authority, and I had a roof survey planned for the next morning. I wrote to the custodian, assuming they had their hands full, but he said to come. On Monday, there were only three people in the building - the security guard, a lunch lady, and the fireman [the custodial handyman]."

At his job as Director of Non-Destructive Testing & Evaluation at SUPERSTRUCTURES, an architecture and engineering firm devoted solely to building restoration in NYC, the transition to Work From Home had begun as the state issued executive orders requiring that at least 50%, then 75%, and finally 100% of non-essential employees stay out of the office.

"On Friday, they announced that the 100% would become effective on Sunday night. We weren't sure whether we'd have access to our building, so we spent the afternoon moving my equipment and battery chargers to my apartment."

On Saturday, Drogin launched the website. By Tuesday it started to take shape.

"I had found and downloaded transcripts of all of the governor's and mayor's press conferences. I came up with a Quote of the Day that I culled from the transcripts. There's a daily infographic that the Mayor's Office posts within a PDF. And I was culling links as misinformation was spreading on-line."

Drogin had been there before. He had created similar pages related to September 11 and Hurricane Sandy. From 2011 to 2014, he served as publisher of the award-winning virtual newspaper, *The Cooper Union Alumni Pioneer*, covering his alma mater's financial crisis. The virtual newspaper became a resource not only to the entire Cooper Union community, but to local, national, and international journalists covering the institution at the heart of the free education movement.

"These aren't publicity stunts for my Not Nice Music website. I closed down the music business in 2008. But, because of my music business, I get spidered by Google pretty often, and there is such a hunger for good information."

As a freelance journalist, Barry Drogin has written for IEEE, *New Music Connoisseur*, *NewMusicBox*, and the Dutch *Levend Joods Geloof* (Jewish Life Today). He started his journalism career as a student reporter at Emerson College, where he was a theater directing major and music composition minor. He continued it after transferring to The Cooper Union, a free art, architecture, and engineering college, where he earned bachelor and master degrees in electrical engineering and a Tau Beta Pi Laureate Award for his diverse achievements in music and journalism. His website also hosts the NewOp/NonOp and C-Opera hompages, the Harry Ruby Memorial Page and Michael Sahl Tribute Page, and three Internet books, *A Musical Contrarian*, *Cassandra's Curse*, and *Generations*. Some may only know Drogin through his Facebook (and Jewish music) pseudonym, Baruch Skeer.

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