

Electronic music pioneer to lecture at FSW's Bob Rauschenberg Gallery

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A colleague and friend of synthesizer/instrument inventor Robert Moog, Robert Margouleff was also an early creative resource for Andy Warhol's "*factory*" and co-producer of "*Ciao! Manhattan*" (1972), the cult classic film and semi-autobiographical tale of 1960s counterculture actress, socialite and "*Warhol superstar*" Edie Sedgwick. Margouleff had purchased a Moog Series IIIc in 1968 and became friends with the renowned bassist Malcolm Cecil, who had approached him to learn more about this synthesizer.

In exchange for Cecil teaching Margouleff how to use the recording console, Margouleff taught Cecil how to use the Moog. And, within the year, the duo set out to build the largest synthesizer in the world and jointly formed a group known as TONTO's Expanding Head Band, through which they explored the nearly unlimited capabilities of their machine.

They recorded the album *Zero Time* (1971), attracting attention from many other leading artists of that era to the newly emerging music technology. Robert Margouleff and Cecil then worked with Stevie Wonder on a string of award-winning albums, including *Music of My Mind* (1972), *Talking Book* (1972), *Innervisions* (1973) and *Fulfillingness' First Finale* (1974), all of which featured the duo as associate producers, engineers and synthesizer programmers. Culminating in a Best Engineered Album Grammy for *Innervisions* (shared with Malcolm Cecil,) Margouleff's producer/ engineer other credits include work with Quincy Jones, Stephen Stills, Jeff Beck, Weather Report, the Doobie Brothers, Joan Baez, Depeche Mode, Oingo Boingo and DEVO.

In 1980, Margouleff produced DEVO's *Freedom of Choice* album which included the song "*Whip It*" and earned the band their RIAA platinum record award/designation. On working with Robert Margouleff, DEVO's co-founder and principal songwriter Gerald Casale said, "*He just brought the right kind of tone and energy to the fact that we [were] using mini-Moogs.*" In an interview for Rhino Records, Casale described how DEVO's demos for the album, which featured extensive usage of the Moog Bass, convinced Margouleff to work with them.

This special ArtSPEAK@FSW concert-event sponsored by the Richard & Julia Rush Endowment is free and open to the public.

The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery is at 8099 College Parkway SW in Fort Myers.