

# Catman returns

Masked musician El Gato reemerges with a new album



El Gato and his nefarious partner in crime, General Electric (right), just may show up in the flesh at Sol Collective on Oct. 11.

BY STEPH RODRIGUEZ / [stephr@newsreview.com](mailto:stephr@newsreview.com)

Collective may happen differently Arrant said.

As a multi-instrumentalist, El Gato spans genres such as pop and indie rock with folk-style storytelling. But his music also has a dusty, desert rock 'n' roll vibe. In the new song, "Oh My Darlin'," twangy guitar fades in and out to the clicks and taps of percussive instruments that keep a mellow tempo. Meanwhile, a low, cigarette-tinged voice sings a somber farewell to his lover:

"Oh my darlin' I believe this may be the last time / I can hold you in my arms and hold your face to mine / Step inside my love while we are here inside our home / 'Cause where I go from here I go alone."

Back at Star KTV Lounge, the summoned musicians chat and joke about the mysteriousness of the evening. Were they brought there to sing karaoke renditions of Stray Cats' songs? As the playful conversations continue, a flat-screen TV mounted to a far wall flickers on—and there's El Gato. Apparently, the cat man can Skype—from a secret location, of course.

He lets out a low and distorted, "Meow ... meow ... meow ... meow," peering down at the room full of astonished faces. The words "Translation in progress" blink across the black-and-white screen.

"What the heck?!" Chavez shouts over laughter.

"Is this thing working?" El Gato asks before thanking them for participating in the upcoming show.

"I want to deliver an experience to the people at Sol Collective that they will never forget," he says. "I'm trying to offer a stimulation overload that will leave the user with a feeling similar to a mental hangover and have them questioning their life decisions."

"Can you see us?" Chavez asks.

"I don't know," El Gato replies.

"Will we be able to see your face at the end of the show?" Chavez asks.

"You're looking at my face right now. I don't understand the question," he says before the conversation abruptly ends and the screen fades to black. □

Join El Gato for *The Executive Party Box Volume 2's* album release show on Oct. 11 at Sol Collective, 2574 21st St., 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation; Pets, Gamma People and Oh, Lonesome Ana will also perform. All proceeds benefit the Library of Musiclandria; [facebook.com/whoiseltgato](https://facebook.com/whoiseltgato).

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