



Ephemeral Radio Music Newsletter

Music News About Sensitive Chaos, Aurora Coffee Songwriters Series, The Happenstance, TouchXtone, and Brad Jones

Dear Jim,

Happy holidays to you! As we approach the end of 2006, all of us associated with the Ephemeral Radio newsletter wish you and yours a joyous New Year and thank you for your readership this year. Stay tuned, there's more in store for 2007!

December is another month of great music performances, both real world and online. This month's Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series (every Saturday night in Atlanta) is once again featuring the best of the areas musicians at a price that is **FREE**.

Sensitive Chaos is being featured and having some of its live music broadcast on www.ambientpingradio.com this month. Read more about the show below.

Don't forget that [Sensitive Chaos](#), [Brad Jones](#), and [TouchXtone](#) CDs make great gifts this holiday season.

Speaking of Sensitive Chaos, Bill Binkelman of New Age Reporter says "I highly recommend *Leak* for its inventiveness, its beat-happy effervescence, and its thorough lack of pretension, not to mention it's just a flat out fun album from start to finish."

Happy New Year!

-Jim "Synthejim" Combs

Sensitive Chaos "Leak" CD Spills All Over

More reviews and mondo radio airplay



Another glowing review of the **Sensitive Chaos *Leak*** CD has been published, this one by Bill Binkelman of the [New Age Reporter](#):

Leak is one of those maddeningly difficult to categorize/describe CDs that drive me nuts. I want to scream out loud how good it is, but after writing those words the details are tough to articulate! The reason that the music presents difficulties in describing it is, of course, indicative of how much talent the man behind Sensitive Chaos (Jim Combs) brings to this venture. Wielding a vast array of electronic keyboards and synths, he weaves heady and adventurous (yet from my perspective wholly accessible) ambient/electonica that crosses over into jazz fusion at times and also has some pronounced elements of retro EM as well. The music can be warm and friendly, even whimsical, or shadowy and shrouded in textural mystery. Four of the six album cuts are over nine minutes long which allows the music to take its time getting where it's going. To add further intrigue and pique your interest, a large amount of the music was composed on the fly at various live appearances (coffee houses, mostly). So, there is an element of improvisation here as well, although Combs always took the original live composition back home and tweaked it before considering it a finished track.

Two songs, the title track and "Starry Night," feature the über-cool sax playing of **Brian Good**, and its his deft soloing, snaking amongst layers of keyboards and synths, that sometimes migrates the music over into progressive jazz fusion territory (although Combs' assorted synths still anchor each track's aesthetic in ambient or electronica). Ambient fans who loathe the sax are urged to not prejudge this CD as it would be a mistake.

At times, *Leak* (e.g. the track "Android Cat Dreams Of Mice") reminded me of the Eien's (Andrew Mays) Dandelion Dreamer. Like Eien, Combs concentrates less on the traditional ambient tools (synth pads, chords, washes, and drones) opting instead for layering notes and tones amidst his programmed beats. The sonic difference can't be missed and lends the music a pronounced air of "fun." On the "Android Cat" track, the assortment of retro/contemporary bloops, shimmers, and tones, and thumping snapping drums build up slowly, speaking of the number of instruments and a corresponding volume level, too. All these different "things" going on form a cohesive "whole" which energizes the listener, but never too much so. Some retro synths in the track also compare to pioneering artists such as Beaver and Krause and Patrick Gleeson.

"Starry Night," the second "sax" number, goes in a different direction, opening with classic spacemusic washes. When Good's sax floats lazily into the scene, the music takes on a sensual aspect, only to have programmed drums and reverberating bells slowly fold into the mix. The undercurrent of floating spacemusic is still there but the beats and sax once again sway the overall feel over to that of progressive fusion. This is opposed to the title track, on which the sax has a more exotic wafting sound and the reverberating tones, plonking percussion and hand drum rhythms call to mind Robert Rich's Gaudi.

Other tracks include the bouncy trippy "Painting Earthtones in Orbit" which abounds with tons of retro synthesizers in the latter half of the cut and the closing "Nightshift At The Baby Mecha Nursery," another excursion into electronic whimsy, playful and lighthearted with lots of twinkling bells offset by a pleasant bass rhythm.

Leak is a thoroughly enjoyable album. Combs consistently impresses with how he blends his melodic and rhythmic synths, always maintaining a coherent vision and never allowing the improvisatory nature of his music to overwhelm its sense of purpose. I highly recommend *Leak* for its inventiveness, its beat-happy effervescence, and its thorough lack of pretension, not to mention it's just a flat out fun album from start to finish. - Bill Binkelman

Ambient Ping Radio is featuring a bunch of **unreleased live Sensitive Chaos recordings** on their **Almost Live Music Series**, Monday, December 11th starting at 9pm EST, and will be broadcast Thursday, December 14th at 12mid EST, and Saturday, December 16th at 3:30pm EST. The Sensitive Chaos recordings were done in front of a live audience at Aurora Coffee shows in Atlanta on October 14th and November 11th of this year.

In other radio news, one of the heavyweights in internet radio, **SomaFM**, added "Android Cat Dreams Of Mice" to their new **Space Station Soma** radio program. Other radio stations that have *Leak* in some rotation include internet radio station [Ambient Ping Radio](#), internet radio station [CoolStreams Ambient Caverns](#), Finnish Broadcast Company [YLE Radio 1](#) space music show Space Junk, Alternative radio station [KTUH FM](#) in Honolulu, [StillStream.com](#), [Galactic Travels](#) radio show on **NPR** member station WDIY 88.1 FM, Allentown and Bethlehem, PA, 93.9 FM in Easton, PA and Phillipsburg, NJ, 93.7 FM in Fogelsville and Trexlertown, 92.9 FM on Service Electric Cable, and webcasting on the internet, and [Aural Innovations Radio](#) show The Electronic Cottage.

Outlets now carrying the *Leak* CD: [CD Baby](#) online, [Ping Things](#) in Canada, [Decatur CD](#) in Decatur, GA, [Criminal Records](#) and Aurora Coffee Va-Hi in the Atlanta area. And in Japan, [CDJam.jp](#) is our distributor of record.

You can also download *Leak* from [iTunes](#), Rhapsody, and 25 other online stores.

Many thanks to everyone for the support! Be sure to visit the Sensitive Chaos [web site](#), [MySpace page](#), and [T-shirt shop](#).

Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series

Guests on December 9th are Warm In The Wake with RovaZattella



Jim Combs and **Brad Jones** host the **Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series** at Atlanta's Aurora Coffee in Virginia-Highlands.

The Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters series showcases the best in local Atlanta-region songwriters and features all types of music and performers.

Warm in the wake are on stage at Aurora Coffee on Saturday, December 9th with RovaZattella. Brad hosts.

There are great lineups every Saturday. In the opening spot on all Songwriter evenings, either Brad will be showing off his delta blues-inspired solo guitar or Jim will be performing spontaneously composed ambient drums'n'bass with a healthy dose of explanation of what the heck he's doing. He calls it ambient drums'n'insight.

Check the web site [for the whole schedule](#). A few on tap:

Dec. 2: [Silence Syndicate](#), Adam Downer (of [Chasing Saturn](#)), and Brad Jones

Dec. 3 (4pm L5P): [Chickens and Pigs](#), [Casey](#)

[Walton](#), and Brad Jones

Dec. 9: [Warm in the wake](#), [RovaZattella](#) and Brad Jones

Dec. 10 (4pm L5P): [Hubcap City](#), [Trappers Cabin](#), and Brad Jones

Dec. 16: [Ju Ju B Soloman](#), [Wounded Dinosaur](#) and Brad Jones

Dec. 17 (4pm L5P): Carousel Five, [Burning Artist\(s\)](#), and Brad Jones

Jan. 6: [James Evans](#), [Lianne Hutcheson](#) and Brad Jones

Jan. 7 (4pm L5P): Al Shelton, and Brad Jones

Jan. 13: [Ion Avenue](#) (Angie Goodale), [Patrick Lev](#), and Jim Combs

Jan. 20: [Lesbian Afternoon](#), [Moorish Idols](#), and Brad Jones

Jan. 21 (4pm L5P): [nerdkween](#), Adrienne McCann, and Brad Jones

Jan. 27: [Georgia Fireflies](#), [Broken Symmetry](#), and Brad Jones

Jan. 28 (4pm L5P): [The Preakness](#), [Melissa and the Lonelies](#), and Brad Jones

Feb. 3: [Bouldercrest Singing Group](#), [Casey Walton](#), and Brad Jones

Feb. 4 (4pm L5P): [Opposing Force](#), and Brad Jones

Feb. 10: [Matt Greenia](#) (of the [Judies](#)), Fairchild, and Jim Combs

Feb. 17: [Elliott Rubin](#) and Brad Jones

Feb. 24: [The Subliminator](#), [Wes Andrews](#), and Brad Jones

March 17: [The Annunaki](#), Mary Delaney of Letters to Mary, and Brad Jones

April 21: [Jennifer Matthews](#), and Brad Jones

Hope to see you there!

Aurora Coffee in Virginia-Highlands is located at the intersection of Virginia & N. Highland, 992 N. Highland Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30306, 404-607-1300

By the way, if you are interested in performing at one of the Aurora Songwriters evenings, contact Brad Jones at his MySpace page- <http://www.myspace.com/ancientyouthmusic>

The Happenstance Happening at The Earl On Dec. 9

6 bands, great music, great cause



What is "The Happenstance"?

The Happenstance happens once a year. Six musicians are chosen for each of the following categories: Front Person, Guitarist, Bassist, Drummer, or Grab Bag

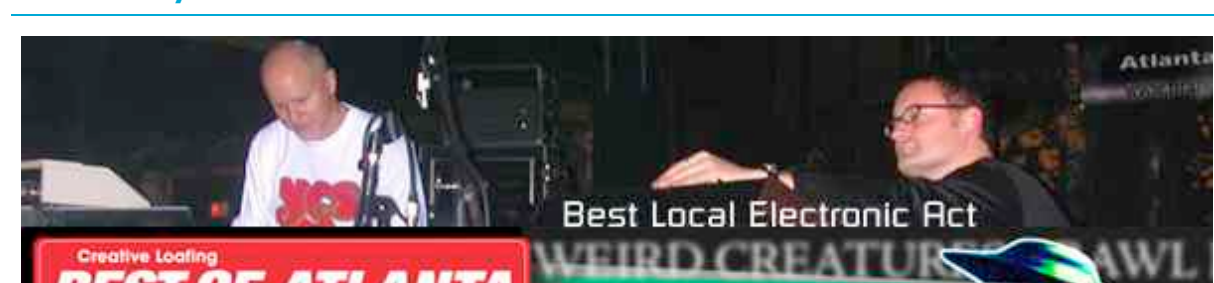
(keyboards/saxophone/triangle/etc). On the day of the show at [The Earl](#), all the names are put into their appropriate hat. A name is picked from the Front Person hat and then one name from each of the other hats is also picked. This is repeated for all of the front people and when the dust settles, there will have been 6 five-piece bands created. After the bands have been chosen, each band is asked to choose their cover song and then sent off to create their music.

Then you show up to see what they come up with. Simple concept, crazy outcomes. And it's all for charity. Come out and see some great musicians make some great music on an insane schedule for a great cause.

Jim Combs has been selected to be one of the 30 musicians participating in this year's event.

TouchXtone Concert Reviews and New CD Update

JavaMonkey and StillStream.com



Indian summer out on the Java Monkey patio is a great environment for a performance, and TouchXtone returned there for their first time since May for their 41st performance and their 25th appearance at Java Monkey.

Par normal, the band performed two sets of new material, each set just over an hour in length.

Michael used the performance as fodder for filling in gaps in the new TouchXtone CD and tells us, "The new TXT CD *Wonderworld* is coming along nicely. The last Java gig provided some missing elements. We're hovering at around 73 minutes or so. There are going to be some surprises, I think. One track is a 15 minute opus called 'Sun Spot'. The music is pretty much edited and mastered at this point. A little tweaking to the track sequencing and then onwards to the track naming and cover art, which is a whole other ball of wax. Not to mention the production and test copies, etc. In other words, expect more delays!"

On Saturday, November 18, at 11:30pm, TouchXtone celebrated their 4th anniversary and performed a concert of about an hour and a half of all new music from Common Sound Studios in Decatur to an internet audience of approximately 40 people via [StillStream.com](#)'s Blue Water Drift Dive show with Darrell Burgan. A small contingent from Second Life was also listening in. Two sets were performed. The first was just over an hour and the "encore" lasted about 30 minutes ending at 1:30am.

"The Stillstream.com performance was a lot of fun," said Michael. "Thanks to Tracey Young for showing up and giving her encouragement. We (and I do think I speak for Jim) found ourselves nervous, which rarely happens. I think it had something to do with the mystery of the whole thing. I mean, a cyber audience with chat rooms and a host in Texas - we're in Atlanta - and the overall "non-event" feel of the production. We couldn't really put our finger on it, but it was somehow daunting. The music was satisfying, though, and it seemed that the listeners enjoyed it (they were quite observant, I should add). Hopefully we'll do it again."

TouchXtone CDs are available at [CD Baby](#) and on iTunes. [TouchXtone merchandise](#) is also available.

Brad Jones New Solo Guitar CD "Simplicity"

Available now on iTunes



[Brad Jones](#), founder and co-host for the Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series first CD is simply entitled *Simplicity*.

The album is available at [Criminal Records](#) and Aurora Coffee Virginia Highlands in Atlanta, [Decatur CD](#) in downtown Decatur, and on the web at [CD Baby](#). And iTunes now has the CD available for download.

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