



Ephemeral Music Newsletter

Music News About MiT-CON & The Atlanta Composers Group, Aurora Coffee Songwriters Series, Sensitive Chaos, More Reviews Of The Happenstance

Dear Jim,
Global warming. Well it started as a very warm 2007 here in the Atlanta area, but some winter weather finally rolled in, though not anything like all our friends around the country with all the snow and rain. Our plants keep trying to bloom and then freezing weather comes through again.

Plenty of music news this month to report. More live events to attend and reviews to read. All the details are below.

The big news this month relates to the Sensitive Chaos CD being picked up by the syndicated national radio program Echoes, which is distributed by PRI (Public Radio International). I very much appreciate the steady and building support for this CD that led up to this add.

-Jim "Synthejim" Combs

Turned On: Atlanta Composers Group

ElectroAcoustic Music Concert, Monday, Feb. 19 at The Five Spot

Atlanta Composers Group presents

Turned On

an evening of electronic music featuring Atlanta's composers

Colin Bragg
Cousin Virgil
Chip Epsten
Don Hassler
Brent Milam
Adam Scott Neal
Darren Nelsen
Nicole Randall
Michael Thomas Roe & Conrad Schnitzler
Brian Skutle
Oliver Smith
Daniel Swilley
Mitchell Turner

The Five Spot in Little Five Points
1123 Euclid Ave • Atlanta • 404-223-1100

Monday, February 19th, 9:00 pm

www.curiomusic.com/concert

Come out to The Five Spot in Atlanta (Little Five Points) on Monday night, February 19th at 8pm for an ElectroAcoustic Music performance by members of the Atlanta Composers Group. Music will be played by Colin Bragg, Bruce Burney, Chip Epsten, Don Hassler, Adam Scott Neal, Darren Nelsen, Nicole Randall, Michael Thomas Roe, Brian Skutle, Oliver Smith, Daniel Swilley, and Mitchell Turner.

Mi.T.-CON (Michael Thomas Roe and Conrad Schnitzler) is involved in the show. Obviously Con is in Dalgow, Germany so won't be making any appearances, but Michael will be on hand to give "Mi.T.-CON 04's" Track # 3 it's public debut.

For more information, check out the groups web site at <http://www.curiomusic.com/concert/>

Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series

Both locations: Virginia-Highlands and Little Five Points



Jim Combs, Brad Jones, and Blake Guthrie host the Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters series at Atlanta's Aurora Coffee in Virginia-Highlands and Little Five Points.

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

There are great lineups most Saturday evenings starting at 7pm (Va-Hi) and Sunday afternoons at 4pm (L5P). In the opening spot on all Songwriter shows, either Brad will be showing off his delta blues-inspired solo guitar, Blake will sing his fabulous songs, 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](http://www.curiomusic.com/concert/). A few on tap:

- Feb. 3: [Bouldercrest Singing Group](#), [Casey Walton](#), and Brad Jones
- Feb. 10: [The Judies](#), Fairchild and Jim Combs
- Feb. 11 (4pm L5P): [Royazetella](#), [The Noci Complex](#),

- and Brad Jones
- Feb. 17: [Elliott Rubin](#), [Cortez Garza](#), and Brad Jones
- Feb. 18 (4pm L5P): [The Lazy Sundays](#) and Blake Guthrie
- Feb. 24: [The Subliminator](#), [The Magic Apron](#), and Brad Jones
- Feb. 25 (4pm L5P): [JuJu B. Solomon](#), [Johnny La Rocha](#) and Brad Jones
- Mar. 3: [Erik Stephan](#), [Darin Seldes](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Mar. 10: [Warm In The Wake](#) and Jim Combs
- Mar. 11: (4pm L5P): [Chickens & Pigs](#), [Marlin Brackett](#) and Jim Combs
- Mar. 17: [The Annunaki](#), Mary Delaney of [Letters to Mary](#), and Brad Jones
- Mar. 18: (4pm L5P): Blake Guthrie
- Apr. 15: (4pm L5P): Blake Guthrie
- April 21: [Jennifer Matthews](#), and Brad Jones

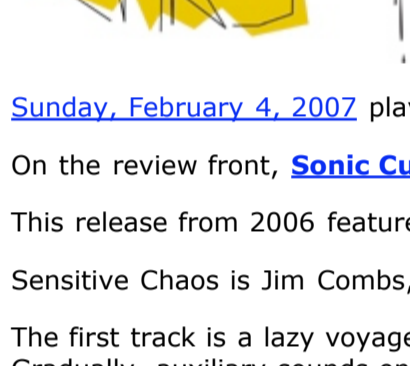
Hope to see you there!

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>

Sensitive Chaos Leak Gets National Airplay On "Echoes"

Big radio play and another couple of reviews



Echoes, the daily two-hour music soundscape (acoustic to electronic, jazz to space music, the avant-garde to rock format), distributed by **Public Radio International** and broadcast on over **145 radio stations** from Maine to California, played the title track "Leak" from Sensitive Chaos Leak on their [Tuesday, January 16, 2007 & Sunday, January 21, 2007](#) playlist, [Tuesday, January 23, 2007 & Sunday, January 28, 2007](#) playlist, and "Android Cat Dreams Of Mice" on the [Monday, January 29, 2007 & Sunday, February 4, 2007](#) playlist.

On the review front, [Sonic Curiosity](#) published a January 2007 article by **Matt Howarth**:

This release from 2006 features 53 minutes of pleasant electronic music.

Sensitive Chaos is Jim Combs, who is joined on two tracks by Brian Good on saxophone.

The first track is a lazy voyage of minimal keyboards that resonate in a delicate fog. Gradually, auxiliary sounds enter the mix: hesitant percussion and xylophonic notes and distant sax. As the piece progresses, mass is slowly accreted, but the density remains relatively sparse. A distinctly soft jazz flair is achieved.

With the second track, ponging leads into a stately dreamstate in which mild e-perc lends a modicum of oomph, and lilting electronics provide a pleasant tapestry for the tune to evolve into a tasty composition. Bass tones enter, adding some body to the crystalline nature of the piece.

The next song explores a nocturnal milieu with atmospheric ambience punctuated by hissing stars and sedate sax. Emerging from remote vistas, tasty rhythms provide a serene beat to the open expanse. The studied escalation is not hurried, nor do things ever grow corpulent. This relaxed progression from minimal to ambient is quite rewarding.

The fourth piece adopts a stratospheric perspective, drifting through high altitudes and looking down on a tranquil landscape. Mildly energetic riffs and soft tempos unfurl in a layer of airy textures. As is apparent by now, Combs' style of gradual evolution produces a pleasing development that culminates with a vaporous dissolution after a peaceful pinnacle has been accomplished.

The next piece is very brief and noticeably crisper than the rest of the compositions. There's no slowbuild here, it's right into a nest of lively twinkling notes and sweeping chords...and then it's done.

The last track combines the sharpness of the previous piece with the overall patient accretion exhibited throughout this release. The melodies quickly establish themselves, then meander through progressions designed to calmly stimulate the mind.

Additionally, out of Canada, **Sylvain Lupari (aka Phaedream)** has reviewed *Leak* for the French language web site [Guts Of Darkness](#) (dark ambient & experimental music reviews):

Leak de Sensitive Chaos, est la fusion des atmosphères.

Sur la pièce titre, un synthé nonchalant traîne ses notes de guitares virtuelles qui résonnent dans une atmosphère vide. Graduellement, ces accords sont rejoints par un sax isolé et des percussions qui deviennent plus présentes, dans une ambiance de soft jazz abstrait.

Sensitive Chaos, c'est Jim Combs, la moitié de duo américain très expérimental TouchXtone. En Leak, il nous présente des compositions écrites, et enregistrées en direct, au cours des 2 dernières années. Très expérimental, avec une approche bien personnelle, le style de Sensitive Chaos reflète son identité, du chaos sensible.

Prenons Android Cat Dreams Of Mice. Des synthèses, avec bouteilles, carillonnent dans une ambiance placide. Doucement, un synthé s'amène avec ses notes douces et caressantes. Graduellement tout devient plus intense ; d'étranges ronflements se mélangent aux notes basses et rauques, sur un beat des îles au mouvement très sensuel. Une belle structure aux modulations bouclées, qui reviennent sur le même sentier harmonieux, ajoutant toujours un élément musical nouveau, montrant d'un cran l'attente et la curiosité. Et l'attente vaut le coup.

Une belle mélodie, aux faibles carillons, émerge d'une nuit bercée par les souffles du sax de Brian Good. Surtout Night est un superbe titre qui monte en crescendo avec de puissantes percussions. Superbe, le sax se lamente sur un rythme hachuré, par un beau jeu de percussions et des strates discrètes qui entrecroisent ce mouvement envoûtant, où la petite mélodie carillonnée flotte toujours dans l'air ambiante d'une nuit que l'on souhaiterait tous les jours.

Le début de Painting Earthtones In Orbit exploite les notes carillonnées avec des voix synthétiques inaudibles. Le rythme se dessine en boucle sur des percussions feutrées et une bonne ligne de basse. La cadence augmente sur des nappes synthétiques qui semblent se chercher, mais les percussions tablas martèlent le pas sur un rythme confus, plus près d'une atmosphère statique que d'une évolution séquencée.

Court, mais fort réussi Bullet Train aurait pu faire l'intro d'émissions d'aventures et policières de ma jeunesse. Les percussions sont incroyablement mordantes. Une petite minute qui passe bien.

Nightshift At The Baby Mecha Nursery est le seul titre studio de Leak et termine dans la même atmosphère harmonieuse et carillonnée qui a fait le charme de ce premier effort de Sensitive Chaos.

Leak de Sensitive Chaos est un album de MÉ expérimental. Les rythmes se balancent entre les notes d'un clavier carillonné et des percussions aux essences et provenances variées. Avec une structure nettement plus abstraite que la MÉ conventionnelle, Sensitive Chaos parvient à maintenir un niveau harmonieux qui captive l'attention. Et un titre comme Starry Night n'est pas à la portée de n'importe quelle plume. Un très beau titre, dans un album qui se dompte assez aisément. Pour amateurs de musique expérimentale, avec un côté très harmonieux.

In addition to the Echoes shows on 145 stations across the U.S., radio stations that have played *Leak* in some rotation include Alternative college station [WTUL 91.5 FM](#) in New Orleans, [Music From Beyond the Lakes](#) on WDBX 91.1 FM, internet radio station SomaFM's [Space Station Soma](#), internet radio station [Ambient Ping Radio](#), internet radio station [CoolStreams Ambient Caverns](#), Finnish Broadcasting 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.

Record store outlets now carrying the *Leak* CD...

[CD Baby](#) online:

BUY the CD
CLICK HERE

[Ping Things](#) in Canada:

music for your inner spaces...
ping things

And [CDJam.jp](#) is our distributor in Japan:

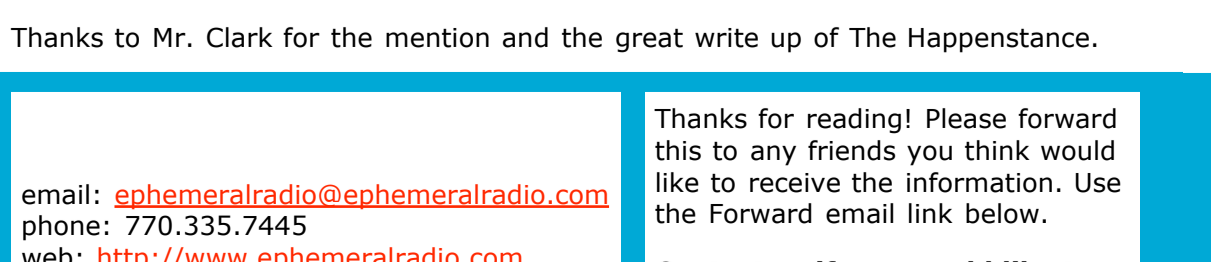
聴きたい音楽がここにある!
CDJam.jp

You can also get the CD at [Decatur CD](#) in Decatur, GA, [Criminal Records](#) and Aurora Coffee Va-Hi in the Atlanta area.

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](#).

Stomp & Stammer's Editorial Of The Happenstance 2006



(photo of Cajones by Jason O'Donnell- Hank Beaver, guitar/vocals, Jim Combs, keys/vocals/melodica, Johnny McGowan, vocals/guitar, and Andy Tegethoff, bass/vocals. Aaron Wood on drums not shown)

Jeff Clark, luminary publisher and editor-in-chief of **Stomp & Stammer** here in Atlanta, posted a nice write up of The Happenstance 2006 in the new January '07 issue of **Stomp & Stammer**. Go find a copy and read it. And then reread Jim's review of his experience performing at The Happenstance in last month's Ephemeral Radio.

A couple of quotes from Stomp & Stammer:

"I've attended each of these instant-band parties, and while I've never exerted much ink over them, after this year's experience on December 9th, I deem it necessary to express why this event, beyond the sheer giddy enjoyment of it, should be considered a vital element of our music scene."

"...This was the first year I could say, however, that the entire crop consisted of band that not only shines, but made me wish I could go see them again. Every single band."

"Given acts sporting hokey names like Smurf Meat and Animatronic Kirk Douglas, one could be forgiven for harboring lowered expectations. But it soon became clear that, despite the unfamiliar circumstances, these people took the task seriously. Cajones, for instance, fronted by Johnny Knox (currently reverting to his surname McGowan) and featuring guitarist Hank Beaver (Gentle Avenger), bassist Andy Tegethoff (The Eyes) and drummer Aaron Wood (Moresight) and keyboardist Jim Combs (Sensitive Chaos), blasted out of the box with the revived-up confidence of a well-oiled organization several years into its road time. I'd find it hard to believe that McGowan hadn't been letting those fiery roots-punk tunes simmer in his personal cauldron for any number of moon phases prior to this performance, but still, to astonish such a rollicking presentaion of them out of this hastily assembled troupe was astonishing."

The article goes on to say why musicians being put into unfamiliar and uncomfortable situations tends to bring out thrilling and exciting music like what occurred at The Happenstance this year.

Thanks to Mr. Clark for the mention and the great write up of The Happenstance.

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