



## Ephemeral Radio Music Newsletter

**Music News About TouchXtone, Aurora Coffee Songwriters Series, Sensitive Chaos, Reviews Of The Happenstance**

Dear Jim,

Happy New Year! Here's wishing you peace and prosperity in 2007!

Things are starting the new year off with a bang around here. I received the January 2007 issue of Remix Magazine to find my letter to the editor had been printed. The Sensitive Chaos CD continues to rack up airplay, reviews, and sales. The Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series schedule is full of great performers for Q1. And TouchXtone has an "almost live" performance on Ambient Ping Radio next week.

So check out the news. Go check out the bands. Forward this email to others who might be interested. Make 2007 great.

-Jim "Synthejim" Combs

## TouchXtone Will Be "Almost Live" On Ambient Ping Radio

Show airs Monday, Jan. 8 at 9pm EST and repeats Jan. 11 at midnight and Jan. 13 at 3:30p

**TOUCHXTONE**  
SYNTHESIZED AMBIENT SPACE DRUMS'N'BASS CHILL MUSIC

If you've been jonesing for some live TouchXtone music and haven't been able to see one of their shows in and around the Atlanta area, help is on the way.

The ALMOST LIVE MUSIC SERIES is an internet radio show featuring exclusive, unreleased material by friends of Toronto's Ambient Ping in the ambient, darkwave, chill and electronic communities.

January 8th at 9pm EST, live shows by TouchXtone will be streamed on the internet for your listening pleasure. These shows were recorded in the last half of 2006 at venues like Atlanta's EyeDrum performance space, Agnes Scott College's Delafield Planetarium, and Decatur's Java Monkey.

The ALMOST LIVE MUSIC SERIES can be heard on [Ambient Ping Radio](#).

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

## 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 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. (Brad's taking a performing break from showing off his delta blues-inspired solo guitar but will be running sound for the shows he hosts)

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

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

- Jan. 7 (4pm L5P): Al Shelton, Husserl, and Brad Jones (host)
- Jan. 13: [Ion Avenue](#) (Angie Goodale), [Patrick Lev](#), and Jim Combs
- Jan. 14 (4pm L5P): [The Cherokee](#), [The Pleasant Intervals](#), and Jim Combs
- Jan. 20: [Lesbian Afternoon](#), [Moorish Idols](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Jan. 21 (4pm L5P): [nerdkween](#), [Adrienne McCann](#), and Blake Guthrie
- Jan. 27: [Georgia Fireflies](#), [Broken Symmetry](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Jan. 28 (4pm L5P): [The Preakness](#), [Twin Pet](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Feb. 3: [Bouldercrest Singing Group](#), [Casey Walton](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Feb. 10: Fairchild and Jim Combs
- Feb. 11 (4pm L5P): [Rovazetella](#), [The Noci Complex](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Feb. 17: [Elliott Rubin](#), [Cortez Garza](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Feb. 18 (4pm L5P): [The Lazy Sundays](#) and Blake Guthrie
- Feb. 24: [The Subliminator](#) and Brad Jones (host)
- Feb. 25 (4pm L5P): [JuJu B. Solomon](#), [Johnny La Rocha](#) and Brad Jones (host)
- 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 Brad Jones (host)
- Mar. 17: [The Annunaki](#), Mary Delaney of [Letters to Mary](#), and Brad Jones (host)
- Mar. 18: (4pm L5P): Blake Guthrie
- Apr. 15: (4pm L5P): Blake Guthrie
- April 21: [Jennifer Matthews](#), and Brad Jones (host)

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

Leaking into the consciousness of the world

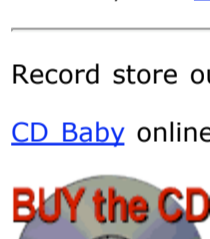


The nice Bill Binkelman review of Sensitive Chaos *Leak* for New Age Reporter was just [published on the web](#).

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 [WTDY 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:

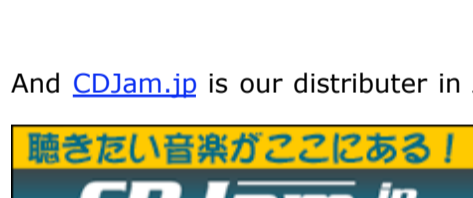


CLICK HERE

[Ping Things](#) in Canada:



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



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](#).

## Review Of The Happenstance 2006

By Jim Combs



(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)

I performed at an interesting charity event Saturday, December 9th, called The Happenstance. It's the 3rd year here in Atlanta for the event, a musical performance by bands that will only exist for one night, playing music that is created during the day of the event.

Basically what happens is that a bunch of people sign up for the event over the course of the year. About 2 weeks before the event, 30 folks are selected to participate. There are 6 of each of the following categories; front person, guitar, bass, drums, & grab bag (another instrument besides the above). These musicians happen to be either from well known indie bands in Atlanta and Athens, or are more obscure, toiling in the shadow types (I would put myself into this category).

So, Saturday morning at 10am, I show up, along with 29 other musicians/strangers, at the club where the show will be held 12 hours later. Each front person is drawn from a hat, and as their name is drawn, each pulls one guitar, bass, drums, and grab bag musician from their respective hats. So 6 bands form instantly. Though there were many women musicians there, the band I was selected for was all male. We name ourselves "Cajones", natch. Cajones was Aaron Wood on drums and vocals, Hank Beaver on guitar, vocals, and percussion, Andy Tegethoff on bass and vocals, and Johnny McGowan on lead vocals and guitar.

The instructions for the bands is simple: You have to create one set of 20 minutes worth of music, all created today with exception of one song which will be a cover tune. The cover tune is chosen from a list of 40 tunes compiled to a theme and this year's theme is 1983 (so all covers are songs that charted in 1983).

Each drummer is responsible for providing the rehearsal space, so the bands all take off for their respective rehearsals, learning a cover tune, and making up 3 other tunes, and then rehearsing them enough to not fall completely on faces in front of the audience.

Long story short. At 10pm, about 200 people had shown up for the show. Each band took the stage and delivered some of the best music I've heard in awhile. Knowing that the music is minty fresh and hardly rehearsed certainly added to the experience. The fact that so many strangers could come together and make such great music was an inspiration.

For my band's part, we had chosen Rock The Casbah as our cover tune and we decided to learn the song first to set the direction for our songwriting. We did a tight, loud, fast and furious version more in the spirit of the band than the original recording. Our first original tune was nearly Heavy Metal/Motorhead in conception, but again TLFF, and an acapella harmony vocal ending (5 vocalists). Our second tune went pop rock with more acapella vocals and me playing a nice Mellotron flute patch. And the last tune devised was a reggae-ish pop number Aaron and I contributed the beginnings. It was great fun to watch everyone push and pull the songs into place with lots of tweaks and changes all the way up until showtime. The reggae song got transposed about 5 times until it perfectly fit Johnny's range. Bridges on other songs were written and simplified and removed with abandon. We practiced beginnings, endings and transitions over and over. Then we put our set list order together: Heavy metal, Clash, Reggae, Pop. Then we went back to the club to wait our turn to perform.

Our group went on second and ripped into our set. It was over before I knew it.

People came up to me all night and complimented me on our set. Most everyone was amazed all the musicians could put on a great show with good and tight music in such a short period of time.

Backstage, many of the performers were wondering what would happen if they did this type of work everyday? How much great music could be made in this way? How much time could be saved? How many more musical relationships could be formed?

It was a great experience, but alot of work. They were able to raise almost \$800 for charity and collected 60 pounds of food. I did appreciate the chance to blow out the cobwebs and pogo to my hearts content on stage with an excellent band and a nice PA blasting out to a full house.

Great photos of the event by Jason OD can be found [here on Jason OD's Flickr](#)

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