



Ephemeral Radio Music Newsletter

Jim Combs, TouchXtone, Michael Thomas Roe, Sensitive Chaos

Dear Jim,

School's out and summer is in the air. There's all sorts of news about TouchXtone, MIT-CON, MIT-Bunny, Sensitive Chaos, Twinkledome, and other works of Michael Thomas Roe and Jim Combs.

We're most appreciative of your continued readership and support! You've got several opportunities to see some great music live over the next month. Read on to find out more.

-Jim "Synthejim" Combs

Jim Combs Plays And Hosts Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series

Guests in June include Leticia Wolf, Alicia Adkins, thesoulaydio, nerdkween



Jim hosts 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.

Joining Jim on Saturday, June 10th, Alicia Adkins and Leticia Wolf are Jim's guests. Alicia and Leticia are brilliant singer/songwriters with voices and storylines that are enchanting and memorable. Leticia's brand of dirty acoustic alternative has been coined "whiskey pop". She is a favorite at venues in GA, TN, and FL where she has opened for singer-writers such as Shawn Mullins, Angie Aparo, Scott Miller and Emerson Hart. Her second solo album "Sad Songs Kill Themselves" is due out late this year.

Alicia lives in Atlanta and has been performing in town at places like Eddies Attic, Smith's Olde Bar and 10 High since 2002. In the past year, Alicia has spent countless nights at Blues and Jazz jams developing her passion to - sing emotion - and is currently writing and recording her first album. She considers Eva Cassidy to have had the most influence on her musically and provides old Western music a special place in her heart.

Saturday, June 17th, Jim hosts with featured guests nerdkween and thesoulaydio. nerdkween blends styles and explores the depths of the mind, heart, and soul where dreamy and raw pop combine layered with jazzy phrasing, country twangs, and simplistic yet eerie power in a low fidelity format. Her style has been influenced by artists such as PJ Harvey, Sonic Youth, Lisa Germano, The Sundays, Mazzy Star, Low, Cranes, and early Liz Phair. Thesoulraydio venture into ambient acoustic drone territory with soul soothing results.

On Saturday, July 8th, Spy Magnet and Jen Woodhouse are rockin' the Aurora house. Spy Magnet is an electronic alter-ego of Michelle Friedman (Sunny Day Theory, The Hardly Darlings) who surprises us with inventive, electroworldly goodness. Toronto's NOW Magazine called Jen Woodhouse's latest CD "Equally indebted to folk, country, alt-rock and jazz, This Honest Age hides its influences well enough to be a straight-up pop album. It has passion and soul to fill the void left by such artists as Jewel (pre-slutty-dance-sellout phase) and Fiona Apple. It's not a far cry from the Sarah McLachlan camp of singers who have something to sell besides their looks, and even has a hint of the Dido sound that gets you a spot at Live 8. Woodhouse exudes an inherent honesty; a smart singer/songwriter with something to say."

And, looking way out at Saturday, August 12th, Jim's guests will be The Blue Hour and The Preakness, each showcasing their unique styles and insights.

In the opening spot on these evenings, 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.

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>

- [Alicia Adkins On MySpace](#)
- [Leticia Wolf On MySpace](#)
- [nerdkween On MySpace](#)
- [thesoulaydio On MySpace](#)

TouchXtone At EyeDrum On July 8

Part of 5th Annual RogueFest

TouchXtone, voted by Creative Loafing readers as Atlanta's Best Electronic Band, is playing a short set on the last evening of RogueFest, this year being held at EyeDrum in Atlanta, GA on Friday through Saturday, July 7th and 8th.

Other performers include Spaceseed, Capillary Action, Big Hairy Monster, Kindness of Strangers, Unbounded Sky, The Lost Boys, Farpoint, Z-Axis, Cobweb Strange, Outpost 9, and Christopher Hunt.

The festival goes from 7:00pm-midnight on Friday night and 5:50pm-midnight on Saturday night. TouchXtone goes on at 11pm on Saturday night. Check it out progressive music fans!

RogueFest At EyeDrum, 290 Martin Luther King Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30312, 404.378.5002

- [TouchXtone Schedule](#)
- [EyeDrum](#)
- [RogueFest](#)

The Word From Michael Thomas Roe



I have a "Twinkledome" performance with Amber Taylor this Friday, June 9 at the Star Bar in Little Five Points, Atlanta. This is one surprisingly well-rehearsed machine. We're still playing all the glam-rock classic-hits you-all-know-and-love, but this time we've been joined by drummer Chris Fontaine (of Impotent Sea Snakes) and guitarist Max Alember (of Black Mona Lisa). Rounding out the band is Mike Smitherman (from Mulva Twitch) on bass and Amber on vocals and guitar. You can check out the Amber web site for more details.

On a more serious note! Nick Sutton emailed to inform that he'll be representing

the net label audioaubergine.com at the NetAudio Festival in London this September. He's been asked to come up with a remix E.P. on the label and wanted to include a Mi.T.-Bunny track "Auto Filled Sex Desire". Readers may recall that Nick did some Touchxtone remixes dubbed "Astrobunny". The stuff that he remixed of my solo stuff is "Mi.T.-Bunny", in keeping with the Conrad-given moniker.

Speaking of Conrad Schnitzler and Michael Thomas Roe, the AQUATIC VINE MUSIC CD's are up on EBAY and EUROCK. Also up and running is a fantastic web-site (with music samples and order information) thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Jim "web-maestro" Combs. I've taken a kind of wait-and-see attitude with this release. The response that I have received has all been positive. AND I THANK ALL WHO HAVE LISTENED. I knew this one was going to be a challenge and the listeners who have "gotten" it and send me kind responses and in some instances descriptions of what the music means to them really makes my (and subsequently Con's) doing this worthwhile.

And then there's some stuff that I can't really talk about (too soon). But it may have something to do with Labor Day. That's all I'll say.

- [Twinkledome Web Site](#)
- [Amber Taylor Web Site](#)
- [Netaudio Festival Web Site](#)
- [Conrad Schnitzler/Michael Thomas Roe Web Site](#)

Review Of TouchXtone 5/26/06 Java Monkey Show

Duo moves into 4th year of performances



We enjoyed immensely the last Touchxtone performance at Java Monkey. Hard to believe, but TouchXtone has been performing for over 3 years now with 36 shows under their belts. Their formula of constant change and improvisation continues to work for them.

TouchXtone's first show of 2006 was a great success and par normal, the Java Monkey cafe was the site of the festivities. It was a warm night for the Art Walk, the night before the Decatur Arts Festival started, so the patio was nice and full. All seemed to be in great spirits, including band members Michael Thomas Roe (Mi.T.) and Jim Combs (Synthejim).

Those familiar with TouchXtone know that every show is a new and different show. Mi.T. and Synthejim individually create what I'll call compositional frameworks, essentially songs without music, and improvise filling up the frames with notes and beats on the fly at the performance. So each show is created especially and spontaneously for the audience. No two shows are the same.

TouchXtone's last show was also at the Java Monkey, their 3rd annual TouchXmas show last December. The boys have been off working on solo projects and other collaborations since then, and those projects have helped bring a renewed creative spirit to the venture.

Lots have changed in the TouchXtone music box, and the stage setup reflected a leaner, more computerized, and simpler arrangement. However, the simpler setup yielded denser, beat-heavy music that was deep in layers, and ranged in bpm from 84-120. Michael debuted his Mac-based Ableton Live rig, which he combined with his Korg MS-2000b and Korg Kaos Pad. Jim's rig consisted of his Roland JD-800 driving his Seqentix P3 sequencer, Novation Nova, Korg Electribes, and Lexicon Jamma looper. Jim also had his circuit bent Touch & Tell and some hand percussion.

TouchXtone ended up with something like 130 minutes of "new material". The night was self-touted as "An Evening With Touchxtone" and they tried to create a seamless environment of DJ and live performance material. Michael's new iMac/Ableton live system tried to crap out, but the gods-of-technology were in their side of the court. A couple of reboots (and a few prayers, not to mention a ground-lifter) was all it took. Jim provided some excellent loopings that fit surprisingly well with the Ableton rhythmic.

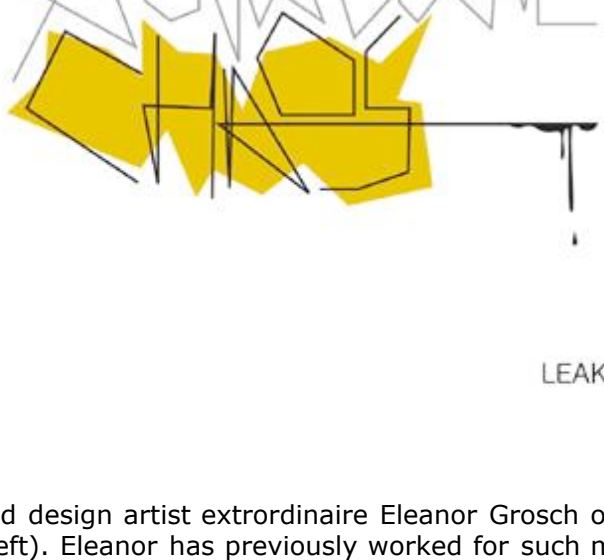
Hopefully some of this stuff can make its way to a Touchxtone "release". Feedback from the audience was extremely positive for both sets. New fans loved the diversity of sounds coming from the stage and long-time fans commented on how well the rhythms and drums kept the music flowing. Everyone loved the beats. We'll try to post a clip or two soon up on our MySpace site.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the band. We've posted a few shots in pics on MySpace.

- [TouchXtone On MySpace](#)
- [TouchXtone Web Site](#)

Sensitive Chaos Previews New Music And Logo

Project shifts back to solo outing for Jim Combs



Jim's other recording project, Sensitive Chaos, is getting close to completion. Plenty of material has been recorded and Jim is assembling the final mixes and deciding what tunes will make it onto the CD. The focus of the album has shifted back to its original vision, that being an outlet for Jim's instrumental soundscapes. "I worked for 6 months to include a vocalist in the project," said Jim. "It has proven difficult to do, though I'm still talking with a few folks. I've got a good set of song-based material that I'll hold aside until I can find a collaborator, but rather than wait until then, I decided to move ahead with instrumental material that can stand on its own."

As mentioned last month, Jim collaborated with Philadelphia

print and design artist extraordinaire Eleanor Grosch on a Sensitive Chaos logo (seen at above left). Eleanor has previously worked for such musical luminaries as Wilco, Death Cab For Cutie, Edwin McCain, and the Dave Matthews Band, and the shoe company Keds just released an Eleanor designed pair of sneakers.

The CD has been titled "Leak", inspired by Eleanor Grosch's logo art. "That bit came in at the end of the design, after Eleanor and I had talked about the meaning of sensitive chaos being water. All the chaotic elements were there in her original designs, but when she came back with the dripping bit, I just laughed out loud. It was so poetic, but unexpected. This is a very different logo than I had conceived in my head. However, my goal was to let Eleanor take a simple set of attributes I had in mind, and express them in her special way. The more time I spend with her design, especially as I create all the CD cover artwork, the more I love what she's created for me. It's perfect."

"Also at my Aurora gig in May, I created a new song that fits the Leak theme, so I've ended up using that song as the title song for the CD. So a few final touches and sweetening (I've enlisted saxophone and EWI player Brian Good to add some sonic flourishes to two songs), and this will be ready to go to the pressing plant."

- [Sensitive Chaos Song Clips On MySpace](#)
- [Sensitive Chaos Song Clips On SynthSpins](#)
- [Eleanor Grosch's Pushmepullyou Design](#)