



## Ephemeral Radio Music Newsletter

**Sensitive Chaos, Aurora Coffee Songwriters Series, Michael Thomas Roe, Bruce Joyner, Spaceseed, TouchXtone, Brad Jones**

Dear Jim,

The holiday season is upon us. The leaves are changing and falling. For those of you getting into that holiday shopping experience, might we suggest two new brilliant (IMHO) instrumental CDs your friends would love to hear and would make great background music over the holidays - **Brad Jones'** beautiful solo guitar CD entitled **Simplicity** and my own soothing **Sensitive Chaos Leak** CD. See below for more info on each.

November is another full month of great music performances. 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**. And **TouchXtone** performs live at the **Java Monkey** in Decatur and also on the internet this month. Both performances are **FREE**. Details are below.

There's more **Sensitive Chaos** press, radio, and retail news. Lots more.

As this is the Thanksgiving season here in the U.S., all of us thank you for your support this past year!

-Jim "Synthejim" Combs

## Sensitive Chaos "Leak" CD reviewed, on radio, and in stores

**Reviews from the U.K., Canada, and U.S.**



Several nice reviews of the **Sensitive Chaos Leak** CD have been published.

**Dene Bebbington**, writing for **Melliflue** out of U.K.: **Sensitive Chaos** is actually **Jim Combs**, otherwise known as one half of the duo TouchXtone. This solo album contains six explorations into ambient rhythm in a style that is partially recognisable from some parts of TouchXtone's works. All the tracks were recorded in the

last couple of years apart from the shortest piece "Bullet Train" which was composed in 1996 and later recorded in 2000.

The tracks on this album while all involving rhythm fall into two types. There are those that begin with formless ambience or nascent rhythms and build up to the main event, and the others go straight into the rhythmic passage.

A longish (over eleven minutes) intro to the album is the title track "Leak". Springy notes play out sparingly creating a sense of strangeness or mystery. Other notes like a glass being gently tapped come in and then slow percussion and assorted rhythmic elements start unobtrusively then increase in presence. Gradually everything becomes more intense; snatches of humming intermingle with bass notes, and a snaky sax like melody adds a touch of the exotic.

My favourite is "Starry Night" which opens with washes like smoothed out insect chirping and lovely reverbing tones plus gentle bell tinkles, and somewhere in the background is what could be burbling water. This leads into a bouncy and funky rhythm with a free and easy sax melody complementing the atmosphere. Another space oriented piece is "Painting Earthtones in Orbit" where dim and distant bell tones create a rhythm and reverbing washes. A synthesised voice reads out somewhat difficult to discern words and in the by now usual fashion percussion and other effects raise their voice driving the piece along to a climax then a peaceful conclusion.

After initially being unsure what to think about *Leak* it has started to grow on me. There's something about Jim's rhythms that are simple yet intriguing, and the spacey passages make this a well rounded album.

**Rik MacLean** of Canada-based **Ping Things** had this to say: "Regular visitors to the ping things site will probably already be familiar with Jim Combs work as part of ambient duo TouchXtone. The Atlanta based project has been performing and releasing music for the last few years and have gained quite an impressive following and a number of local awards. In addition to his work with TouchXtone, Combs has also been presenting a regular improvisational performance event where he's been composing music on the fly, exploring new roads and leading his audience down new pathways. The results of this musical journey can be heard on the debut disc "Leak" by his side project Sensitive Chaos. Composed for the most part in spontaneous live performance, "Leak" is a fascinating and enjoyable disc with much to offer the listener.

The disc opens with "Leak", a slowly building track where minimalist melodies intertwine with each other, ultimately forming a rather intricate tapestry of sounds. It's a beautiful piece, and a fine example of the idea that sometimes the most complicated things can be the most simple.

Track two, "Android Cat Dreams of Mice", features an array of percolating bell-like tones and assorted other like minded instruments creating a nice rhythmic pattern that shifts and evolves over the tracks nearly fourteen minute length. There's a playfulness to this track, a sense of frivolity and fun paired with a strong display of musicality and arrangement. Nicely done.

"Starry Night" follows, a twinkling and delicate piece that perfectly captures the beauty of it's title. A sublime sax line from guest Brian Good adds a nice organicism to the piece, playing along masterfully with a lovely percussive pattern that grows throughout the length of the track.

Vocoder and slight arpeggios feature prominently in "Painting Earthtones in Orbit", a track that continues the space-y themes established previously and expanding on them, turning them into something almost celebratory and joyful. A really nice piece that particularly stands out on a really nice disc.

"Bullet Train" has a very slick and metropolitan feel to it, like life in the big city, blink and you'll miss it, but keep your eyes open and you'll be in for a treat.

"Nightshift at the Baby Mecha Nursery" closes the disc, a track that captures a childlike innocence and wonder, while still maintaining a feeling of wisdom and maturity. Simultaneously delightful and thoughtful.

There's no doubt that with "Leak", Combs has cemented his reputation as a gifted improviser and further, has established his solo work as a distinct entity from TouchXtone. I look forward to hearing more from this project, and I'm very interested in exploring any new pathways that Combs leads us down with future releases."

**Scott Ericson** from **CoolStreams Ambient Caverns** writes: "**Sensitive Chaos** slowly leaks out six songs (most between 9-14 minutes) spanning 53 minutes of music crafted and performed by Jim Combs, aka Sensitive Chaos. Jim develops catchy electronica / spacey "rhythms," with the title track (which includes **Brian Good** on soprano saxophone) perhaps a bit like **Tangerine Dream** meets Trad Jazz, but with pleasing effect (since that sounds flippant or counterintuitive). My favorite is last, "**Android Cat Dreams Of Mice**," which develops more of that drums'n'bass sound (but slow!) as it progresses. It's a little different than our norm, a cool trip into a different edge of the ambient universe.

And back home in the ATL, alt/rock/punk rag **Stomp and Stammer** publisher and editor-in-chief **Mike Clark** had this to say, "Jim Combs alternates with Brad Jones as host of the weekly Saturday evening free music series at Aurora Coffee's Virginia-Highland outlet. **Sensitive Chaos** is Combs' solo electronic music project, debuting with **Leak**, a six-cut CD of somewhat ambient pieces that kinda creep me out a bit, if you wanna know the truth. I suppose that means they're pretty good."

Radio stations that have *Leak* in some rotation include internet radio station **CoolStreams Ambient Caverns**, Finnish Broadcasting Company **YLE Radio 1** space music show **Space Junk**, alternative radio station **KTUH FM** in Honolulu, **Blue Water Drift** live ambient music show on **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 we're soon to have distribution in Japan.

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 November 11th are Melissa and the Lonelies with Darin Seldes**



**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.

**Melissa And The Lonelies** are on stage at Aurora Coffee on Saturday, November 11th with Darin Seldes. Jim 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:

Nov. 4: **Opposing Force**, **Andy Ditzler** and Brad Jones

Nov. 11: **Melissa And The Lonelies**, Darin Seldes,

and Jim Combs

Nov. 12: Aurora Coffee in LSP Songwriters' Series Debut (4pm)

Nov. 18: **Amelia White**, **Ghost Tour**, and Brad Jones

Dec. 2: **Silence Syndicate**, Adam Dattler (of **Chasing Saturn**), and Brad Jones

Dec. 9: **Warm in the wake**, **RovaZattella** and Jim Combs

Dec. 16: **Ju Ju B Solomon**, **Wounded Dinosaur** and Brad Jones

Jan. 6: **James Evans**, **Lianne Hutcheson** and Brad Jones

Jan. 13: **Jon Avenue** (Moorish), **Patrick Lev**, and Brad Jones

Jan. 20: **Lesbian Afternoon**, **Moodrid Idols**, and Brad Jones

Jan. 27: **Georgia Fireflies**, **Broken Symmetry**, and Brad Jones

Feb. 3: **Bouldercrest Singing Group**, Casey Walton, and Brad Jones

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

Feb. 17: **Elliott Rubin**, **Wes Andrews**, and Brad Jones

Feb. 24: **The Subliminator** and Brad Jones

March 17: Mary Delaney of Letters to Mary, 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 World According To Michael Thomas Roe

**Bruce Joiner and the Reconstruction and Spaceseed news by Mi.T.**

**Bruce Joyner and the Reconstruction** update: We did a full day recording session at **Exocet Studios** over in Chamblee. I had not been there in years and can remember Exocet in its more infant stages (I did some new age music mastering there and some recording in my Rising Star Record days). The studio has really made a leap in terms of quality and comfort. I wish I could talk in more technical terms, but from what I understand, the studio now rivals some of the better ones in L.A. I know I was impressed, particularly by the "facilities", which included a full kitchen, break room, refurbished showers and a huge warehouse of stored musical instruments.

**Spaceseed** activities: The Oct 4 gig at **Starbar** was a lot of fun. By this time I had met **Harvey Bainbridge** from **The Hawkwind** and he and I got on well. It was a pretty crazy stage set up. I thought at first there was going to be no room for me. No room in the back or side of the stage, that is. You know, the space where self conscious and vain but not really - eclectic electronic musicians hide in the shadows and work their bloop and bleep madness to unsuspecting ears. Nope, no room there. But plenty of room up front. So I set up Korg synth and BAOS pad and shared front and center with guitarist **John Pack** and bassist **Brian Pawl**. Yeah, I really knew what I was doing! Harvey stood to stage right. He and I traded electronic bloops and bleeps (though Harvey veers toward the whir and whoosh). Spaceseed specializes in thick sheets of space rock metal, almost punk-rock at times. The results are very loud and a lot of fun.

The next week Harvey came to my house and we laid down two songs that may be familiar to those who have attended the more recent TXT gigs: "Is This?" and "Secret Life". Harvey's playing really harkens back to the moon heavy days of yore and his solo-ing is very impressive. He is also a collaborator in every sense of the word, and made great efforts to lay down tracks that I, as the composer, would be happy with. The way I understand it, is that Spaceseed is going to take these tracks and work their collective space-madness on it. Should be interesting...

Funny story about the recording session that neither John Pack, Harvey nor myself will forget: We were taking a smoke break outside and some fool started shooting a gun off. A bullet actually whizzed over our heads. We all ducked and ran in. Harvey managed to get inside, but gingerly kept his hand outside the ever-so-slightly cracked door. I was yelling, close the door, close the door! And Harvey, ever so the English gentleman, said, but I can't put my smoke out in your house!

## TouchXtone Performs at JavaMonkey and on StillStream.com In November

**Live shows in Decatur on November 10 and on the web November 18**



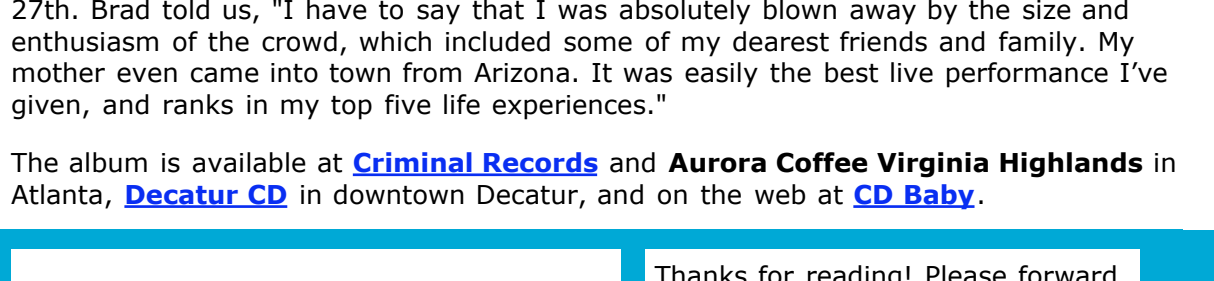
**TouchXtone's next performance** is at the **Java Monkey** in downtown Decatur, GA on Friday, November 10th starting at 8:30pm. They'll do two sets and finish up around 11pm. Great food, great beer and wine, great dessert and coffee, the patio is covered and the heat is on!

And just over a week later, on Saturday, November 18, at 11pm EDT, TouchXtone will perform a live show from Common Sound Studio in Decatur to the world wide web audience on internet radio station **StillStream.com** and Darrell Burgan's **Deep Water Drift Dive** show. Just go to [www.stillstream.com](http://www.stillstream.com) at just before 11pm EST on the 18th, and following the instructions for joining the live concert by clicking on the "Live" tab.

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

## Brad Jones Releases New Solo Guitar CD

**Simplicity is both title and approach**



**Brad Jones**, founder and co-host for the Aurora Coffee/Criminal Records Songwriters Series has just released his first CD, simply entitled **Simplicity**. As the liner notes say, Brad's songs are uncomplicated, imperfect, and at times, raw. Sort of like Brad himself. "I'm not blessed with a singing voice, or a knack for writing lyrics, so my work is all instrumental."

All the songs on *Simplicity* are in open tunings, with the exception of "Spanish Blue". The music is heavily influenced by Celtic and blues classics, and are for the most part played finger-style, with slide on quite a few of the tunes. The music sounds like Michael Hedges and Ry Cooder, and has a movie soundtrack vibe.

The album was recorded and mixed in Brad's home studio, on a Korg D1600 digital recorder with one line direct through a Line 6 Pod, and two Rode NT1 mics. Brad used four guitars on the album: A 1992 Gibson Blues King acoustic, with an under-bridge pickup, a 1950's Kay archtop hollow-body, with a single DeArmond pickup at the neck, a 1953 Gibson ES-125 archtop hollow-body, with a single P-90 pickup at the neck, and a 2005 National Resolectric, with a P-90 pickup at the neck and a Highlander IP-1X pickup in the saddle.

The CD was officially released at a show at Aurora Coffee-Virginia Highlands on October 27th. Brad told us, "I have to say that I was absolutely blown away by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd, which included some of my dearest friends and family. My mother even came into town from Arizona. It was easily the best live performance I've given, and ranks in my top five life experiences."

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**.

email: [ephemeralradio@ephemeralradio.com](mailto:ephemeralradio@ephemeralradio.com)  
phone: 770.335.7445  
web: <http://www.ephemeralradio.com>

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