

TouchXtone Newsletter

News, CDs, Reviews

Dear Jim,

Yes, the holidays are here. As this is being written, it doesn't feel holiday-like, jumping between 70+ degrees and freezing in the ATL, but we're not complaining. There's lots of other things that make this a special time of the year; fall fairs, specialty lattes, seasonal beers, new CDs from favorite musicians (Kate Bush, yeah!). TouchXtone received one of our presents early this month when our mounted award from Creative Loafing arrived in the mail. There's something about the physical object that makes the honor that much more special. Deep down, we all like to be recognized.

TouchXtone celebrates its 3rd birthday on November 19, and like any hard-working enterprise, a little feedback on how we're doing every now and again helps feed the creativity. Needless to say, all the attention this year has been a nice shot in the arm. Coupled with the radio airplay and reviews we've gotten recently, it certainly shows progress! And speaking of recognition, don't forget our annual TouchXmas holiday concert at the Java Monkey in downtown Decatur, GA on Saturday, December 17, 2005 at 8:30pm. This is our chance to do a little recognition of our own for our own, meaning we like to give away a few presents to those on hand. We hope to see you there.



Jim Combs & Michael Thomas Roe

TouchXtone Is In The Studio

New recordings due next year

Michael and Jim started recording new material for a new CD due in the Spring of 2006. The duo is converging at Jim's Common Sound studio and is exploring both ambient and more beat-oriented fare that they began with headmiX and Astroboy releases earlier this year. This is the first bona fide studio recording (as opposed to remixes or live recordings) that the band has done since their CD "Three," and the boys are spending alot of time experimenting with all the vintage and modern gear at their disposal. Heaven forbid, they're even doing overdubbing and recording live percussion instruments. Several promising basic tracks are already in the can and they hope to have it put to bed by the end of the year. A short sample of one of the new tunes is available at the link below.

On top of TouchXtone recording, both Michael and Jim are working individually on several additional projects. Michael is wrapping up his second CD with Tangerine Dream founder and Germany resident Conrad Schnitzler, working on a slew of solo tunes, and continuing his collaboration with U.K.-based ElectroBunny. Jim has started a solo album and is picking up his Phosphene Grid collaboration with Tim Walters from San Francisco. All-in-all, it's a very creative time for the TouchXtonians.

- [New TouchXtone Music Sample](#)
- [ElectroBunny](#)
- [Conrad Schnitzler & Michael Thomas Roe](#)
- [Phosphene Grid](#)

New Tech On www.touchxtone.com

A blog and a forum make their appearance



We've added a blog (web log) and a forum to our web site and will see how you like it. The blog will tend to be postings of things we find interesting that you may comment on. The forum will be more free-for-all (albeit a moderated free-for-all) where we hope you'll spark most of the conversation (and we'll join in).

At the moment we have alot of control how the blog looks, but not alot of control on how the forum looks. If there's enough interest in either, we'll see what we can do about upgrading.

- [TouchXtone Blog](#)
- [TouchXtone Forum](#)

CD Baby & TouchXtone Contribute To Red Cross

One + Two = Hurricane Relief



Derek Sivers at CD Baby sent us a note to tell us how the fundraising efforts for the Red Cross wound up: "Just a short note to say THANK YOU for putting your CD sales in the Red Cross charity. In the end, it raised a total of \$165,060 over the last 7 weeks, sent directly to the Red Cross

Disaster Relief Fund through our local Portland Oregon branch. (You should have seen their faces when we brought in that very first check, in person, for \$113,000!) We donated \$40,000 of our own CD Baby money too, in case you were wondering. So - altogether, that's \$165,060 from the artists, \$40,000 from CD Baby = \$205,060 donated. I hope it helps!" TouchXtone is proud to contribute to such a worthy cause and are glad that all the little efforts of independent musicians on CD Baby added up to such a huge response. Thank you for purchasing the CDs that made the difference!

CD Baby also just announced that Bestbuy.com is now selling and featuring all the independent artists on CD Baby which means TouchXtone CDs are available for order through Best Buy stores and their online store.

- [Buy TouchXtone CDs on CD Baby](#)
- [Red Cross web site](#)
- [TouchXtone CD information](#)
- [Best Buy Web Site](#)

Other News Of Interest

Press, radio, internet



Netherlands-based E-dition Magazine, focusing on electronic music from around the world, published reviews of TouchXtone's first 2 CDs One & Two in their September 2005 issue. KXCI in Tucson, Arizona played several TouchXtone tracks on the Brainwaves program on September 19-21, 2005. And Raymond Scott lists TouchXtone's Astroboy as a Top 20 play on his WVKR-FM "Secret Music" radio show for August 2005.

Jim Combs is now a writer for the national music magazine Recording Magazine and his first piece is one of a series of essays in the December 2005 issue on "Why My DAW Is My DAW." A DAW is a digital audio workstation, and Jim's essay explains why he uses the Macintosh software program called Digital Performer. Jim has been a Performer user since the program was introduced way back in the '80s, and all of TouchXtone's CDs have been either recorded, edited, or mastered with the program. Jim's last

published magazine article was in 1990 when he wrote in Keyboard Magazine about the music of Twin Peaks and studio musician/Grammy Award-winner Kinny Landrum's contributions to the Twin Peaks soundtrack, Julee Cruise solo album, and other David Lynch/Angelo Badalamenti works. Look for the December 2005 Recording Magazine in most music stores and newstands.

- [E-dition Magazine](#)
- [Recording Magazine](#)
- [Reviews of TouchXtone CDs](#)

Concert Schedule

Where to see us play next

On Saturday, December 17, TouchXtone will be back out on the Java Monkey patio in downtown Decatur, GA for the 2005 TouchXmas holiday party. We start at 8:30pm and our second set ends at 11pm. Come by and enjoy the great food, liquids, and desserts and listen to our latest musical forays into electronic space. It should be nice and toasty on the patio with plenty of holiday cheer for the whole family. And as we've done for the past 2 years, they'll be presents for those in attendance. Hitch up a sleigh and jingle on down.

And speaking of presents, there is plenty of inexpensive TouchXtone merchandise up at our store for your holiday shopping convenience. We've got an assortment of T-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, coffee mugs, holiday cards, coasters, mousepads, calendars, clocks, and more. There's even black T-shirts with our favorite CD covers on them.

- [Current Schedule](#)
- [Official TouchXtone Apparel](#)
- [Java Monkey](#)
- [Official TouchXtone Gifts](#)

email: touchxtone@touchxtone.com
phone: 770.335.7445
web: <http://www.touchxtone.com>

Thanks for reading and for your visits to TouchXtone.com! It's the best place for up to the minute information, music, and photos. Contact us for booking or press information. Sign up for monthly emails. Visit our store for official TouchXtone merchandise.