

TOUCHXTONE

SYNTHESIZED AMBIENT SPACE DRUMS'N'BASS CHILL MUSIC

October/November 2005

TouchXtone Newsletter

News, CDs, Reviews

Dear Jim,

TouchXtone fans are the best. Due to your votes, TouchXtone won Creative Loafing's Best Of Atlanta 2005 Readers Poll for Best Local Electronic Act in the issue just published September 29th. You blow us away with your generosity. Thank you for your support and votes!

We've been recharging the batteries at the house of Xtone. Jim did the Different Skies thing and Michael has been busy with some alternative musical collaborations. Read on for tales from each. And plan on coming out to hear all this recharged creativity at our annual TouchXmas holiday concert at the Java Monkey in downtown Decatur, GA on Saturday, December 17, 2005.



Jim Combs & Michael Thomas Roe

Different Skies 2005 Wrap Up

Jim recounts his week at the Different Skies Festival



Hi, Jim here. That's me in the amphitheater at Different Skies 2005, a week-long electronic music festival was held at Arcosanti, Arizona from September 12 - 17. This was my second year, and felt much more relaxed and integrated into the proceedings. I ended up performing on 7 songs on Saturday night and mixed sound for 2 others plus the jams at the end of the show. On the 7 songs, I played egg shaker on one, Hohner melodica on two, Novation Nova on one, Nova/Sequentix P3 on one, Nova/P3/Korg ER-1 on one, Sangean shortwave radio on one. My favorite memories revolve around the daily rhythm of the week: Waking up when the sun streams through the windows at 6:15am, the long walk up the hill (the last few steps leave you breathless), first coffee of the day and custom-ordered, fresh-baked croissants while reliving the night before with co-conspirators, walking through the beautiful and sometimes decaying structures, blue skies and wind, updating the Different Skies web site with incredible photos, Mike Metlay's morning meeting, music-music-music all day long with 19 other incredible musicians, LUNCH, impromptu discussions and goodhearted jibes, a dip into the 65 degree pool and drying in the 90 degree sun, DINNER, jamming in the evenings, and deep conversations and joking well into the night. And of course, the big concert on Saturday night in the amphitheater...

This was the third year of Different Skies and the folks at Arcosanti have told us we have become the most popular of their yearly concert series. It was an interesting evolution of performances this year; many more shorter pieces across a huge range of musical styles. I played on one song that was composed in the 17th century and others that were composed during the week.

- [Photos and description of Different Skies 2005](#)
- [Audio samples from the Different Skies 2004 DVD](#)
- [Arcosanti, Paolo Soleri's Urban Laboratory](#)
- [Audio samples from Different Skies alumni](#)

Michael's Musing From The Maestro

A journal of summer happenings, performances, and collaborations



Hi, Michael here - Spring, Summer into Fall. Where does the time go? A cliché, I know. Spring: Philadelphia and the "electro-music 2005 festival" and conference," a photo from the end of our set is at left. An interesting "detour" thru Baltimore and DC. The I-85 route nearly killed us. Stand still traffic, practically all the way. Did I mention the rain? Mary offered to handle the ignition; Jim took a breather in the back seat and I fired up Iggy Pop and what I

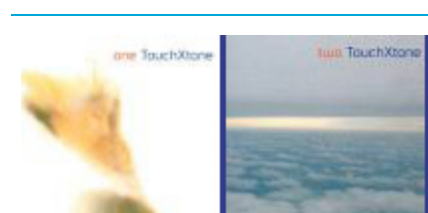
had in the passenger seat. I enjoyed the sights. I don't see much of this part of the world and the ports, empire and industry were impressive. We took a different route home through the Pennsylvania countryside. Kept waiting for the Amish to ambush, but that's another story...

On to Summer: working (somewhat) very hard on the promotion/distribution of the Conrad Schnitzler collaboration, "Mi.T.-CON 04" CD. It's hard to believe that Conrad delivered the final product last November. In between getting the cover art decided, the song order decided (I fought with this 'cause I felt there may have been a need to "front-load" the tracks and come to think of it "back-load" as well), mastering and getting the CD to the manufacturer, it took nearly 6 months to get this thing "on the shelves". I was also careful about keeping Conrad "in the loop", particularly in the cover art department. After agonizing for weeks, I finally had two cover art versions for Con to choose from. In true Con-fashion, he didn't care which one... (more)

- [More of Michael's Musings From The Maestro](#)
- [Purchase Mi.T.-CON 04 at Eurock](#)
- [Mi.T.-CON 04 CD information](#)

Selling CDs At CD Baby and Ping Things For Red Cross

One + Two = Hurricane Relief



Everyone has been pitching in to help out the Red Cross as they begin to restore people's lives affected by the Hurricanes. Two of our distributors, CD Baby and Ping Things, have gathered together many musicians, including TouchXtone, to donate CD sales and make as big a dent as possible. TouchXtone contributed our first two CDs, One & Two, to the cause. Rik at Ping Things let us know that his efforts yielded \$515 in donations for American Red Cross.

Derek Sivers at CD Baby got literally thousands of CDs offered up for donations and if everyone sold as many CDs as we did, that's tens of thousands of dollars in donations heading to Red Cross. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

- [Buy TouchXtone CDs on CD Baby](#)
- [Ping Things](#)
- [TouchXtone CD information](#)
- [Red Cross web site](#)

Other News Of Interest

Press, radio, internet



As mentioned above, the big news this month is TouchXtone winning the 2005 Creative Loafing Best Of Atlanta Reader's Poll for the category of Best Local Electronic Act.

TouchXtone tied in the Reader's Poll with previous winners Aerial. And Matt Jeanes' Larvae took the critics award. Our congratulations to both. A look at all of our individual web sites will show you how broad a range makes up the category of electronic music. TouchXtone spans from ambient to soundtrack to drums'n'bass to more traditional "Berlin School" songs. Aerial says they combine electronica, trip hop, drum & bass, deep house, jazz, rock, and world music. And Larvae are powerhouse laptop noisemeisters and multimedians. We're glad we're part of a category that can contain such a wide perspective, and glad the Atlanta area supports it all.

- [A list of all Creative Loafing Best Of Atlanta 2005 Winners](#)
- [Aerial's web site](#)
- [Reviews of TouchXtone CDs](#)
- [Larvae's web site](#)

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.

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

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