

Building on a massively successful 15-year run of worldwide airplay, live concerts, and festival appearances – as well as multiple award considerations from Zone Music Reporter and One World Music Radio to the Grammys – **Sensitive Chaos** proudly presents its 11th release: *Closer to Home*.

Sensitive Chaos is an ever-changing musical collective founded and led by composer/synthesist/producer **Jim Combs**. For this outing, Jim was backed by Sensitive Chaos alums **Ryan P. Taylor** on guitars and bass, **Josie Quick** (Perpetual Motion) on violin, **Brian Good** on soprano saxophone, **Mitchell Sosebee** on drums and percussion, and newcomer **Brian Donohoe** (Snarky Puppy, Progger, One O’Clock Jazz Band) on alto & tenor saxophone, clarinet, flute, and keyboards.

Among the guest artists on various tracks: World-renowned **Diane Arkenstone** on spoken word, **Tom Carleno** (Perpetual Motion) on 12-string guitar, **Paul Nagle** (Binar, Joint Intelligence Committee, Ideation, and Headshock) on synthesizers and sound effects, and famed New Age artist **Giles Reaves** on synthesizers, drums, & percussion.

True to the Sensitive Chaos creative process, *Closer to Home* began life as a series of looping improvisations recorded during rehearsals and performances at the Atlanta-based *Nophest Festivals*, **Oakhurst Porchfest Festivals**, and online virtual

shows on **Kimono My House** during the 2020 pandemic. These live foundations were brought back to the studio for arrangement and orchestration, followed by remote contributions from the various guest musicians, with Jim editing and mixing the final results.

The result is a 108-minute double CD with music that strides across the musical worlds of ambient, world, electronic, jazz, found-sound, and downtempo chillout.

A Different Approach

The last Sensitive Chaos album, 2018’s *Walking a Beautiful World*, took three years and countless live and studio hours to create and assemble. It was an ambitious, wonderful project, well rewarded by a first-round listing for the Grammy Awards as well as Best Electronic Album nominations from Zone Music Reporter and One World Music Radio – but the long and arduous path to the release took a real toll on Jim.

Closer to Home was going to be a little different. Jim’s original plan was to simply capture several live improvised performances, just as he always started new Sensitive Chaos albums. This time, though, Jim elected to start with a trio rather than alone, creating the basic live tracks with the aid of bandmates Ryan Taylor and Mitchell Sosebee and then further developing them in the studio.

From the Stage to the Studio

After a promising trial run in June 2018 at the Atlanta Synthesizer Club Showcase, Jim, Ryan, and Mitch began collecting material for the new record at a series of 2018 and 2019 gigs. The trio's gig as one of over 200 bands at the Oakhurst Porchfest in October 2018 yielded six basic tracks that were developed in early 2019 (with added bass and guitar from Ryan) and resulted in the album tracks "Closer to Home", "Backyard Limbo", and "Cosmic Orchestra".

Next up were live sets by the trio at the Nophest Music Festival in May 2019 and by Jim and Mitch at the next Oakhurst Porchfest in October 2019, followed by a round of remote performances in late 2019 from Josie Quick (violin), Tom Carleno (guitar), and Brian Good (soprano saxophone). Their tracks came back in early 2020 – and then came the pandemic...

Working from his home studio, Jim added more tracks via four solo performances in March-May 2020 on Kimono My House, a new "virtual house concert" series established by **Andy Gish** and **Kim Ware** on Facebook. By this time, the number of potential tracks for the album had swelled to a whopping 23 choices, some based on material reaching back to the 1980s.

Icing on the Cake

The rest of 2020 was devoted to filling out and tightening up the album, which received:

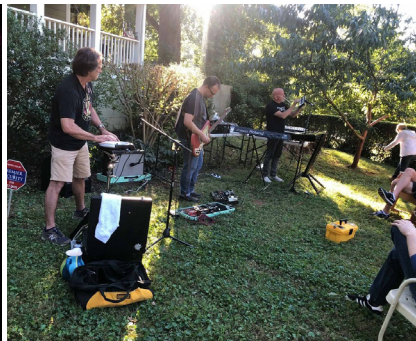
- more bass and guitar from Ryan and new synthesizer and sequencer work from Jim over June and July;
- an August reading of Jim's poem for the track "Snow Laughing Matter" by his favorite inspirational musician Diane Arkenstone;
- contributions to six album tracks by founding Snarky Puppy saxophonist and keyboardist Brian Donohoe throughout September and October; and
- synthesizer work from Paul Nagle for "Fast Driving Open Road" and synthesizer solo and percussion for "Fauna Funk Fusion" from Giles Reaves in December.

Final overdubs from Brian, Josie, and Mitchell, followed by final mixing, brought the album to completion in the early months of 2021, capped off with mastering by Greg Wright in March.

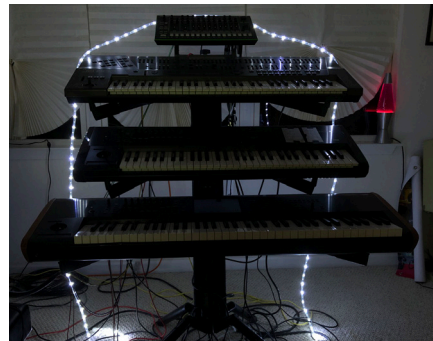
And this was supposed to be "the easier album"!



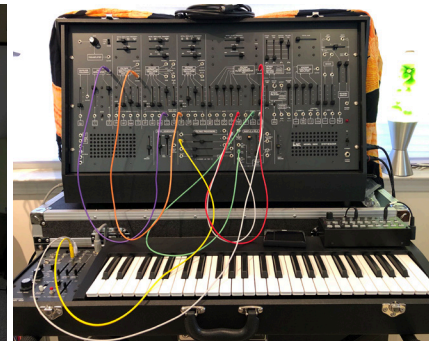
Jim Combs and Ryan P. Taylor at the Atlanta Synthesizer Club Showcase, June 1, 2018, held at Georgia Tech's Under The Couch



A well-received outdoor show by (left to right) Mitchell Sosebee, Ryan P. Taylor, and Jim Combs, at the Oakhurst Porchfest, October 13, 2018



Jim's home setup for the March 13, 2021 Kimono My House



The iconic ARP 2600 synthesizer, famous for its use by artists from The Who to Weather Report, arrives in Jim's studio (in its newly-reissued form by Korg) in time for the July 2020 sessions.



Mitch, Ryan, and Jim play the Nophest Music Festival, May 4, 2019. Much of this material will appear on future Sensitive Chaos projects.



Jim and Mitch's setup for the Oakhurst Porchfest, October 12, 2019



Jim overdubbing Mitch's percussion and drums on seven Closer to Home songs on February 4, 2021



Jim's home setup for March 13, 2021 Kimono My House. Material will appear on future Sensitive Chaos projects.

Track List and Credits

Track 1 – Fauna Funk Fusion

Jim pulled “Fauna Funk Fusion” from his and Mitch’s Oakhurst Porchfest October 12, 2019 performance, though it’s changed significantly from the original mostly-percussion version at that show. Studio production began November 30, 2019.

Jim Combs - Drum Machines

Brian Donohoe - Alto & Tenor Sax, & Keyboards

Josie Quick - Violin

Giles Reaves - Synthesizers, Drums, & Percussion

Mitchell Sosebee - Refrigerant Canister Percussion

Ryan P. Taylor - Guitars & Bass

Track 2 – Snow Laughing Matter

Jim originally recorded the demo for “Snow Laughing Matter” in Brooklyn, NY in 1984 on a TASCAM 4-track tape recorder, a Fender Rhodes, an ARP Odyssey, and a Roland Drumatix TR-606, with found sound field recordings on the F train of the NYC subway using a Pro Walkman cassette recorder. The combination of polyrhythms and weird time signatures was a favorite in Jim’s archive but had never gotten a proper recording. Jim recreated the track from scratch starting on March 8, 2020 and reused some found sound field recordings and Odyssey tracks.

Diane Arkenstone - Spoken Words (appears courtesy of Neo Pacifica Recordings)

Jim Combs - Keyboards, Drum Machines, Poetry, & Field Recordings

Brian Donohoe - Tenor Sax, Clarinet, Flute, & Keyboards

Brian Good - Soprano Sax

Mitchell Sosebee - Drums

Track 3 – Fort Hamilton Parkway – Prospect Park

Found sound field recordings in the Fort Hamilton Parkway subway station and Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY in 1984.

Jim Combs - Field Recordings

Track 4 – Backyard Limbo

Composed in preparation and performance at Oakhurst Porchfest on October 13, 2018. Studio production began March 28, 2019.

Tom Carleno - 12-string Guitar

Jim Combs - Keyboards & Drum Machines

Brian Donohoe - Tenor Sax & Keyboards

Brian Good - Soprano Sax

Josie Quick - Violin

Mitchell Sosebee - Percussion

Ryan P. Taylor - Guitar & Bass

Track 5 – Cosmic Tune-up

Jim Combs - Field Recordings

Track 6 – Cosmic Orchestra

Composed in preparation and performance at Oakhurst Porchfest on October 13, 2018. Studio production began April 6, 2019.

Jim Combs - Keyboards & Drum Machines
Brian Donohoe - Tenor Sax & Keyboards
Josie Quick - Violin
Mitchell Sosebee - Percussion

Track 7 – Fast Driving Open Road

Composed live in performance at Kimono My House on May 30, 2020. Studio production began August 24, 2020.

Jim Combs - Keyboards & Drum Machines
Brian Donohoe - Tenor Sax & Keyboards
Paul Nagle - Synthesizers & Soma Pipe chant
Mitchell Sosebee - Drums
Ryan P. Taylor - Bass

Track 8 – Closer to Home

Composed in preparation and performance at Oakhurst Porchfest on October 13, 2018. Studio production began March 13, 2019.

Jim Combs - Keyboards & Drum Machines
Brian Good - Soprano Sax
Josie Quick - Violin
Mitchell Sosebee - Drums & Percussion
Ryan P. Taylor - Guitars & Bass

Track 9 – As Night Unfolds

Composed live in preparation and performance at Kimono My House on April 5, 2020. Studio production began June 23, 2020.

Jim Combs - Keyboards & Drum Machines
Brian Donohoe - Tenor Sax, Flute, & Keyboards
Josie Quick - Violin
Mitchell Sosebee - Snare & Percussion
Ryan P. Taylor - Guitars

Track 10 – Watching Embers Glow

Composed live in performance at Kimono My House on May 30, 2020. Studio production began August 24, 2020.

Jim Combs - Keyboards

Track 11 – Kimono My Bliss

Recorded live on Kimono My House on April 12, 2020.

Jim Combs - Keyboards

All tracks produced and mixed by Jim Combs
Common Sound Studio, Decatur, GA from 2019-2021

Mastered by Greg Wright

Liner notes by Jim Combs and edited by Mike Metlay

About Jim Combs

Jim Combs began his forays into electronic music and recording in the mid-1970s using his Dad's His Master's Voice reel-to-reel tape machine and a PAiA synthesizer he built from a kit. He's performed with bands since high school and produced his first vinyl record with Denton, Texas-based **New Jetz** in 1982. Moving to New York City in 1983, he jumped into the world of digital music, sampling, and MIDI, first taking lessons on the Fairlight CMI, then creating his own Mac-based MIDI studio.

After moving to Atlanta in the late 1990s, Jim was able to build out his studio with multi-track digital recorders and increase his synthesizer collection. He started the **Tangerine Dream** and **Cluster**-inspired electronic performance duo **TouchXtone** in 2003 and went "solo" with **Sensitive Chaos** in 2006.

Jim's live festival performances include appearances at the annual **Different Skies** electronic music festivals in Arcosanti, AZ, from 2004 to 2008. Taking that festival's ideas in a new direction, he founded the highly-successful **City Skies** electronic music event series in Decatur, GA, and produced and performed there during the event's run from 2008 to 2011. He participated in the **Karelian Skies** music event in Nurmes, Finland, in 2016.

Jim has performed as the keyboardist for **the Good Graces** from 2008 to 2015, including opening for the **Indigo Girls** five times in 2015. He was also the keyboardist for **The Sunset District** from 2012 to 2017.

Today, in addition to Sensitive Chaos, Jim is the keyboardist for **Blackfox**, a seat he's occupied since 2015.
<http://sensitivechaos.com/>

Meet the Artists

Diane Arkenstone is a prominent ambient music artist and multi-genre musician, as well as an Amazon Best Selling poet and spoken word artist. She creates and has released nearly a score of albums of transcendent ambient songs, as well as trance, world, Americana, Native American, and Celtic music.
<https://dianearkenstone.com/>

Tom Carleno is a guitarist/composer playing with the acoustic jazz ensemble Perpetual Motion. He has released five albums, performed for over 25 years, and recorded as a session player, most notably with **Danny Seraphine** of **Chicago**. Tom won Best Instrumental in the SongDoor International Songwriting Competition, and his CD *Perfect Imperfection* was nominated for Zone Music Reporter Awards for Best Instrumental Album – Acoustic (which he won) and Best New Artist.
<http://www.tomcarleno.com/>

Brian Donohoe was born into a musical family in the strange, beautiful, semi-isolated, and green-chile-saturated city of Albuquerque, New Mexico. While attending the University of North Texas College of Music jazz studies program, he recorded and toured internationally with the Grammy-nominated **One O'Clock Lab Band** and won Downbeat Magazine awards as a soloist and band leader. Brian was a founding member of and composer for the Grammy-winning group **Snarky Puppy** on their first three albums, then spent several years as a touring and session musician while forming and developing his own group, **Progger**. Brian has also produced music for national television networks including Bravo, the History Channel, and MTV.
<https://briandonohoemusic.com/>
<https://briandonohoe.bandcamp.com/album/soundtracks-for-trying-times>

Brian Good is a veteran of the electronic music scene, with work ranging from ambient to experimental to space music. His soprano saxophone and Electronic Wind Instrument playing has been featured on many Sensitive Chaos releases, including *Leak*, *Emerging Transparency*, *Seeker After Patterns*, *Amerisynthecana*, *March of the Timeshifters*, *Walking a Beautiful World*, and now *Closer to Home*.

Paul Nagle has been writing and performing electronic music since the late 1970s, influenced mainly by German musicians such as **Hans-Joachim Roedelius** and **Conrad Schnitzler**, and bands such as **Tangerine Dream** and **Cluster**. However, he considers musical niches to be fair game – and believes that failure is more noble than non-participation.
<https://paulnagle.bandcamp.com/>

Josie Quick is a founding member of the acoustic world fusion duo **Perpetual Motion**. The band has recorded six CDs that can be heard on radio stations around the world. She also performs with the progressive rock band **The Coyote Poets of the Universe** and the **Frontera String Quartet**. Josie has received acclaim for her collaborations with numerous recording artists worldwide, including violin parts on previous Sensitive Chaos albums *March of the Timeshifters*, *Live at the Mudlark Theater*, *Walking a Beautiful World*, and now *Closer to Home*.
<http://www.josiequick.com/>

Giles Reaves, although his own music is of the progressive electronic variety, got his start through country music channels. While working as a keyboardist and percussionist in Nashville in the 1980s, Giles' music caught the ear of **MCA** producer **Tony Brown**, who signed him to the company's MCA Master Series label. Giles recorded *Wunjo*, *Nothing Is Lost*, and *Letting Go* (with **Jon Goin**) on MCA. His solo album *Sea of Glass*, released through Hearts of Space Records, was his biggest hit, charting high on the *Billboard* Top New

Age Albums listings. Besides releasing albums and performing live all over the world, Giles works today as a producer/engineer moving primarily between Nashville and New York, his credits including projects by artists like **Emmylou Harris** and **Lisa Germano**.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giles_Reaves

Mitchell Sosebee has been an active drummer on the Atlanta scene for decades, playing in legendary punk and rock outfits like the **Lipstick Stains**, **Murderer's Holiday**, and **Pirates in Love**, **Scoring Dope for the Ultimate Woman**, and **Blackfox**. He loves to perform across styles like jazz, rock, experimental beat music, folk, Americana, and noise. Mitchell was a featured percussionist on the Sensitive Chaos *Walking a Beautiful World* album and has been part of the live band since 2018.

Ryan P. Taylor is an Atlanta-based instrumentalist/producer/sound designer who makes experimentally-minded electronic music that combines elements of ambient, drone, IDM, and noise under the guises of **eldorado_omega** and **Tay0**. His musical influences include **Brian Eno**, **John Cage**, **Autechre**, **Bill Laswell**, and **Delia Derbyshire**. Ryan's guitar and bass work were featured on the *Walking a Beautiful World* album and, like Mitchell, has been part of the live band since 2018.

<https://eldoradoomega.bandcamp.com/>

<https://soundcloud.com/tay0>

Greg Wright is a producer, engineer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist who mastered *Closer to Home* in March 2021.