netBloc Vol. 23:
We Invented
The Compilation
TDK
SETTE LOW NOISE HIGH OUTPUT
NORMAL POSITION
DYNAMIC
IEC I/TYP.
SETTE MECHANISM
EQ

Music, politics and how we invented the compilation

Continuation of a dialog

Once upon a time… long, long ago… 2007 was the year and we released *netBloc Vol. 5: The threat at Goliath's feet...*. In that release's PDF was an introduction entitled *An infrastructure for take-over* which was later published online here. In it I discussed ways in which the netaudio community can bring more attention/fans into the fold. Two of the key points were:

- Some sort of centralized infrastructure is needed to house a community and charting system which gives newcomers to the scene an easier way to become comfortable with it and to discover great netaudio more quickly.
- Netlabels/Artists need websites that welcome new listeners and makes it easy for them to download and/or listen to their music. Experimental sites with wacky navigation schemes are not helping them promote their music.

That article prompted an open letter response from Eldino who's *il blog di eldino* has become a cornerstone of the netaudio blogging community. In his response, he emphasized much of what I wrote about and added interesting commentary regarding music file organization, tagging and distribution. His letter is a must-read continuation of the dialog on netaudio discovery & promotion. The following is my much-belated further continuation of the dialog.

From the start, I planned on blocSonic being somewhat "politically" motivated — specifically music-industry politics. Just the name blocSonic itself conjures up the union of politics and music as it's formed from two root words:

- bloc

  1. a group of voters or politicians who share common goals

2. a group of countries acting together for political or economic goals, an alliance: e.g., the eastern bloc, the western bloc, a trading bloc

- sonic

1. of or relating to sound
2. having a speed approaching that of the speed of sound in air

It's been a while since my netBloc intro has consisted of anything more than an overview of the release itself. I miss rabble-rousing and have a bit to say this time around so let me get to it.

Centralized Netaudio Infrastructure

Eldino, I and commentators have all discussed it before, netaudio needs more exposure. Since most of us involved have little or no budget, how is it that you go about promoting cheaply? What form does an infrastructure take for a scene that primarily distributes music freely? Should it be one community-driven website? A loosely formed alliance of bloggers, netlabels, podcasts and websites that cross-promote each other? Is a chart system valuable?

Personally, I think that charts are invaluable. A required promotional tool. I realize that some people have reservations regarding charts and don't find them to be valuable. If that's how you feel, in my opinion charts aren't for you anyway. Charts are most-definitely targeted to music listeners who may not have the time or inclination to do the digging. These people need guide posts and as such, find charts to be extremely beneficial. I'd go so far as to say that these people may actually place music at a higher value if it's charted. Chart's are also targeted to newbies to the scene who without such tools may be dissuaded from exploring the netaudio scene after only discovering music which lacks quality.

We at blocSonic are currently in the process of developing our own chart system. Initially it'll only chart blocSonic releases and tracks found on them, but the intent is to eventually expand the charts to include netlabels and artists who want to participate. Though it's important that we take baby steps into this realm… until we've perfected the blocSonic-specific charting it'll only chart blocSonic activity.

Another aspect of an infrastructure which hasn't been discussed is revenue. Let's face it, we all take part in this out of love, but with some sort of income from our activities, more time can be devoted to the task. I'd love to see some sharing of ideas on how we who are involved in the netaudio scene can each create a revenue stream without giving up on free music distribution. There are currently business models being explored… most of the one's that come to mind are of a hybrid model… they either sell some music/give some music or give all music/sell high-quality copies (Eg. Brad Sucks, Josh Woodward, AF-Music). Are there other models that can be explored? Ad-based? Can ads be effective within our niche? We at blocSonic are also considering this option.

Basically, we're considering a system in which ad space is sold for spots in our PDF booklets. All ad income is then split among blocSonic and the participating artists. As in a magazine, there would be quarter, half and whole page spots. Unlike magazines, the ads would NEVER be placed before the content only lightly interspersed throughout the booklet. The benefit of such an ad to possible ad space buyers would be the fact that the ads are for the life of the release. Releases always remain online for download and as such the ads can continue to bring traffic long after the purchase/investment. We're still trying to decide on a fair cost for such an ad system. We're also holding off until our traffic builds a bit more. We'd love your feedback about such a system! Would it turn you off of our releases? If we targeted the ads specifically to the netaudio community – perhaps advertising other netlabels, podcasts, blogs or artists – would you actually find ads useful? If you

represent a netlabel, podcast, blog or artist would you be interested in ad space if the cost was set reasonably low?

Do you have ideas about creating revenue from netaudio content without actually selling the music? We'd love to hear your thoughts!

File Tagging, Organization and Distribution

This is a topic that Eldino touched upon that I hadn't in *An infrastructure for take-over*. It's also a pet-peeve of mine. Just as Eldino, I have an archive of organized netaudio which is currently 113gb in size. Before I listen to a release, I run it through my custom-made Ruby script that takes regular expression patterns for renaming and other params to add cover art and normalize tags according to my system. I then import the newly processed release to my ipod for listening, rating and ultimately filtering and removing all but 5-star rated music. As you may guess, this process adds a bit of complexity but in the long run makes for an organized way of coming up with netBloc compilation tracklists. Since I automatically re-tag everything according to my system, the way a netlabel/artist tags their music has no effect on my process, but the way that files are named sure does. The cleaner the release filenames, the better for my process as I don't have to come up with some clever regular expression to rename them. I disagree with Eldino on filename structure because of this reason (it's ok, I'm quite sure many of you will disagree with me :P). For me, the following works the best as it allows for my automated script to easily parse the info without any regular expressions being fed to it:

- Single Artist Releases
  Leading-zero Track Number - Track Title.extension
  Example: 01 - Some song.mp3
- Compilations
  Leading-zero Track Number - Artist Name - Track Title.extension

Example: 01 - Cool Dudes - Funky Track.mp3

This also seems to be the de-facto standard among file-sharers. Notice, there are no dashes or underscores where spaces should be. With regard to directory structure, the following is what I use for netaudio:

- Single Artist Releases
  netlabel name (or independent artists directory)/Year - Artist Name - Album Title (Catalog Number)
  Example: blocSonic/2009 - Just Plain Ant - Dig Deep (BSOG0001)
- Compilations
  netlabel name/Year - Various Artists - Album Title (Catalog Number)
  Example: blocSonic/2009 - Various Artists - netBloc Vol. 23_ We Invented The Compilation (BSCOMP0023)

I find it important to keep everything organized by netlabel because of the way that I access the music.

All that aside, I can usually deal with most file naming systems… as long as there is a… SYSTEM. If you run a netlabel or are an artist and you distribute music online, please… PLEASE… use one cohesive naming system, whatever it may be! Please don't do the following:

01 - Something.mp3
02-Some Other thing.mp3
3.someotherotherthing.mp3
04 - yetsomeotherthing.yougetthepoint.mp3

Do this instead:

01 - Something.mp3
02 - Some Other Thing.mp3

03 - Some Other Other Thing.mp3
04 - Yet Some Other Thing (You Get the Point).mp3

If you distribute your music via archive.org, you're required to upload files without punctuation and spaces. This is a nightmare to rename! Please also provide a manually created zip file containing your release along with any relevant info and artwork. Have a look at a netBloc release page as an example of what you should do.

One last thing regarding file naming… please come up with a system and stick to it. Don't change your naming system from release to release.

Just because you're releasing online doesn't mean that you should skimp on the details. Regardless if your music is free or not, people aren't obligated to download and listen. Ultimately, you're selling your music to the listener whether the release is free or not. Attention to detail counts. Next time you release, ask yourself the following. Why should someone download and listen to this release? What can I do to make this release stand out? Answer those questions and follow through. Nothing bugs me more than to come across netlabels that act as if whether or not you download matters little to them. If it doesn't matter to them, then why should it matter to site visitors?

I welcome other netlabels, artists, blogs, podcasts to continue this dialog. The time is now to get serious about an infrastructure for the netaudio scene. The mainstream music industry is only continuing to spin out of control. Music lovers need alternative sources for quality music discovery and many haven't the time or the inclination to dig through the seemingly infinite online sources to find the quality. Where do we go from here? Do we pool resources? Do we cross-promote? Do bloggers partner to make their collective voice that much louder? Whatever it is we do… it'll need to be a collective effort.

Of course we didn't invent the compilation! Duh!

No really! We didn't… seriously! Why do you doubt me? Even though we didn't invent them it doesn't mean we didn't perfect them… so here's another perfect compilation for your soul to absorb via your ear canals. A collection of 11 tracks plus one sampler. That's two bonus tracks on top of the standard 10 track line-up! Whoa! Crazy! I loved the Jay Slim release *The High Life* so much that I simply couldn't contain myself to only one track. Then Just Plain Ant released the sampler of his upcoming release *The New Black* and I felt that it'd be a perfect addition to the line-up. In fact, I wish other labels/artists released samplers like this. I'd love to feature one with every netBloc release. Consider this an invitation to any of you who may be working on some music and want to begin promoting it early, send us a sampler and it'll be considered for a future netBloc release. 1 track, no longer than 15 minutes and only send wav, flac or aiff files along with any info you'd like mentioned about the upcoming release. Send files to us via services such as yousendit.com or you can use our contact to form to let us know you'd like to send us something and we can set you up with an ftp account to upload directly to the blocSonic server.

So what sounds can you expect this time around? Industrial, electro-pop, electro-funk, hip-hop, punk, rock, pop-rock and indie-pop from France, Germany, Italy, the UK and the US. Our netBloc releases are always an eclectic, international affair and this time is no different.

Thanks again for taking the time to download and listen to this netBloc release. Thanks also to all participants. Each and every one of you rock! Remember… share this! Give it to friends, enemies and strangers alike! Tell them how much netaudio rocks! When you're done doing that, be ready… later this month on Tuesday, July 28th is the release of blocSonic's second original release featuring one of our newest artists, the UK's Formula and his *The Overcast Project*. A fresh release with complete production from him and featuring artists from the US, UK, Canada

& Jamaica. The LP features artists signed to independent labels (LDZ - Dented records), major labels (Aynzli Jones - Mercury) and an unsigned MC called Isayu (from the Bay in Oakland). Then… on Tuesday, August 25th we keep the hip-hop flowing with our third original release by another of our newest artists Luck & Ripp and their *The Catastrophic Connection*. The short song structure, Luck's intricate flow, Ripp's deep, creative lyricism and UhOh's simple loops and boom-bap drum style make the album seem like a bumrush with a softer side. From being "awoke to the ways of the world" to reminiscing on your childhood, this project covers all the bases. So keep your ear to the ground… blocSonic is rumbling on…

Peace
Mike Gregoire
Founder/Curator blocSonic.com

01 DeathBoy / Beautiful (3:23)
(from the independent release 'ToRights')

deathboy - torights

Written, produced & performed by: Scott Lamb
Recorded at: The DeathStar
Year: 2008
Release URL:
http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/33902
Artist URLs:
http://www.deathboy.co.uk
http://www.myspace.com/deathboy
http://www.jamendo.com/en/artist/DeathBoy_(2)
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

Beautiful

A wonderfully brooding vocal delivery set to an industrial-flavored breakbeat. I'm rarely the industrial listener but this one set it's claws into me and it won't let go…

DeathBoy

DeathBoy are a London-based group, most known within the industrial genre, but with frequent excursions into drum and bass and trip-hop. They favour breakbeats, bass-lines and misanthropy in all things, and find biographies troublesome.

Lyrics

She doesn't talk like one of those
That's what makes me sit so close
Shall I compare you to a rose?
Your beautiful and comatose

When you're flat on your back
Girl, you give me heart attacks

And she doesn't realize
My girl's got pretty eyes

And when your hair's a mess
Sweat dripping down your neck
Let's get you out 'that dress
I've got something to confess

You make me fall apart
Gave you the keys to my heart
Make me think in clichés
But that don't matter anyway

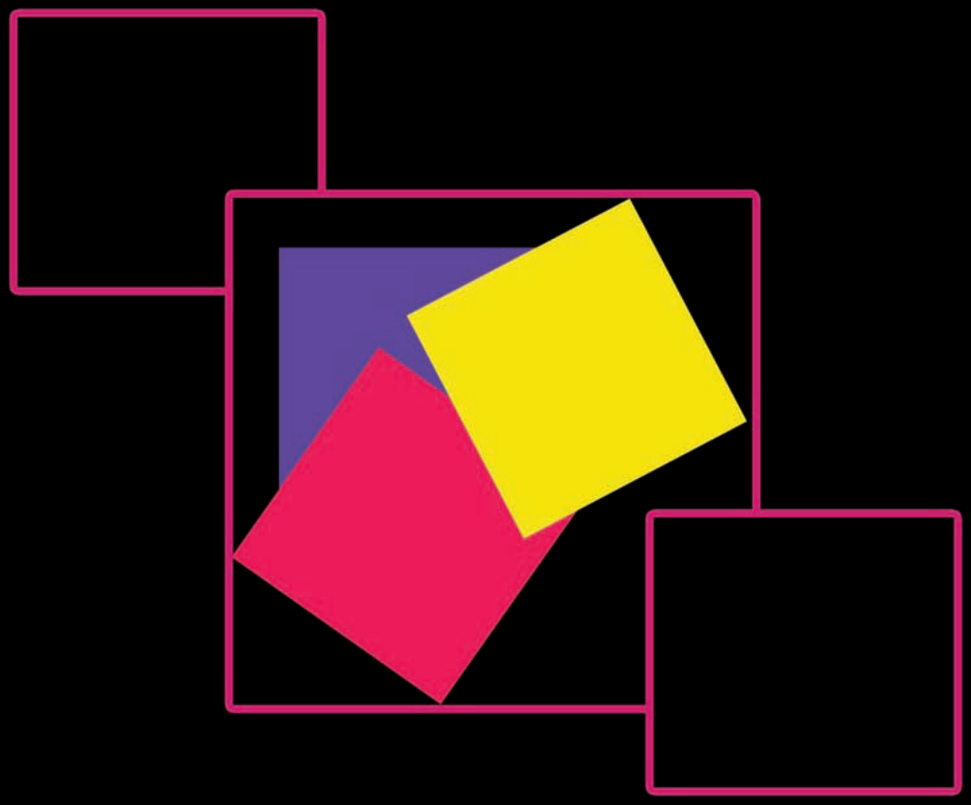
Getting drunk on cheap wine
When you wind around my spine
Wanna take you on the northern line
We're shedding clothes and stealing time

Underneath the weeping willows
Lying, cuddled up to pillows
Think about her when she isn't there
Tie another bullet in her hair

We're always courting with disaster
But that's ok if I can have her
There ain't no happy ever-after
Just stolen moments filled with laughter

02 JJM / Nihilist (2:52)
(from the independent release 'Mechanism')

JJM



Written, produced & performed by: JJM
Recorded at: JJM's home studio
Year: 2007
Release URL:
http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/4946
Artist URLs:
http://www.myspace.com/whiteobscurity
http://www.jamendo.com/en/artist/john.john.maman
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

Nihilist

Musically, this is one upbeat number! A terrific throwback to 80s new wave with convincing synths and all, which belies a theme that's slightly on the dark side. No matter… the momentum and energy will get you doing that 80s white people dance* in no time!

* You know! That dance that Courtney Cox and Bruce Springsteen did in the "Dancing in the Dark" video! Oh…… THAT 80s white people dance! Is there a name for that dance?!?

JJM

JJM start programming music at 5 years old. When you, you were playing on your Amiga or on your Atari, he was producing music on his mac powerbook and on his iphone.

When you, you were practicing baseball during your private school's break, he was working his choreography with his mom, a beautiful Moulin Rouge dancer.

When you, you were still doing number two on your nappies, he was already sampling his fart.

When you, you were trying to perform with your pop-rock band, he was already the biggest star in Michigan, USA.

AND NOW...

He decided to start all over again:

Wear nappies, stop dancing, play baseball, buy an Atari, and playing new kind of live music — EKR (Electro Komputer Rock).

Now, if your eyes or your ears can't stand the light of his talent... then... he can't do anything for you!

Lyrics

It's not so simple with your
drugs
which makes you
run
over me

I've got a suicide girl…

It's just because of your
drugs
which makes you
run
over me…

03 Scrambled Mache / The Bubblemaker (4:02)
(from the Headphonica release 'The Bubblemaker' hpcd035)

Written, produced & performed by: Scrambled Mache
Recorded at: Scrambled Mache's home studio
Year: 2008
Release URL:
http://www.headphonica.net/?contend=releasemore&id=hpcd035
Artist URL:
http://www.myspace.com/scrambledmache
Netlabel: Headphonica
Netlabel URLs:
http://www.headphonica.net
http://www.myspace.com/headphonicamusic
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/de/

The Bubblemaker

A track I had originally hoped would be on *netBloc Vol. 22: Life on Ceres* but unfortunately contact with Scrambled Mache wasn't made in time. Luckily, contact was eventually made and I'm now able to include it for you to enjoy as well!

What happens when electro meets funk? The Bubblemaker happens! Make George Clinton proud and fight off Sir Nose D'Voidoffunk by enjoying the future-funk now!

Scrambled Mache

Scrambled Mache is the musical work of artist, song writer, Chris Bacon from Muskegon, Michigan. Chris has been constructing music since the mid 1990's but has only recently started creating music using mainly electronic tools. Scrambled Mache is a virtual collage of differently sounding pallets of music being used

together to form a strange, melodic clash of sound and rhythm.

Headphonica

Headphonica is a netlabel. Yes. Headphonica has been online since late 2006 and has released lots of strange musicians, weird projects and experimental stuff. The variety in styles ranges between electronica, tape-music, jazz, avant-garde, folk, experimental, noise, hip-hop, pop and many others.

04 Jay Slim / Star (4:08)
(from the Just Plain Sounds release 'The High Life' JPS002)

JAY SLIM

THE HIGH LIFE

JUST PLAIN ANT
BRAD OBLIVION
SLEAZE

JDOPENESS
JPS

Written & performed by: Justin Hedrick
Produced by: Just Plain Ant
Recorded at: Northside Livingroom Studios & Vintage Youth Studio
Year: 2009
Release URL:
http://www.archive.org/details/jps_002
Artist URLs:
http://www.myspace.com/jayslimthinpockets
http://jivepartridge.blogspot.com
Netlabel: Just Plain Sounds
Netlabel URL:
http://www.archive.org/details/just-plain-sounds
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/us/

Star

Classic braggadocio hip-hop for the now generation… the swagger is the message. Slim's lyrical skill shines over Just Plain Ant's smooth and jazzy space-age production.

Jay Slim

Jay Slim is a lyricist from Richmond, VA under the Just Plain Sounds label. He strives to keep lyricism true and natural with no filler. He is not the cocky rapper and would prefer that you listen to the music and make your own decisions.

Just Plain Sounds

Just Plain Sounds is a hip-hop net.label founded by Just Plain Ant. We specialize in good music that'll keep your head nodding. Just something for everyone to enjoy.

Lyrics

Mix the beat with the lyrics a hustlers spirit
A style so gritty make the perpetrators fear it
The anti-commercial needs no rehearsal
Just let the verse burst for a new wave reversal
Universal like ufo's spit for the soul control
Keep makin heavy hits that'll cause that tko
Lights out when my mics out
Step on my stage and the fights out and you ain't got a chance without the right clout
We get shitty in river city and bang out sadity bitties with big titties
Meanin' we get busy
It takes time and dedication to master this
Bitch you ain't a star you a asterisk

Chorus

Bitch I'm a star
Straight intergalactic comin' with that rap shit my skill level is massive
Bitch I'm a star
Can't reach me in a space ship your stylistics is basic I grab the mic and rape it
Bitch I'm a star
Inside another galaxy ain't no other foul as me fuck whoever doubted me
Bitch I'm a star
The closest cat is light years away better duck when I spray what did I say?
Bitch I'm a star
Star

I represent that cedar and sedge, '78 for you heads
Pure thoroughbred I'm like q-tip with an edge

5 boroughs I learned about, wax cd and word of mouth
Took those styles turned em out still that cat you ain't heard about
From the east coast
That 2 up 2 down I'm too hot for clowns
Built my swag from the ground to the ceiling
Presence so appealing cant help but feel him
That dope boy they never catch dealin'
Verses full of crack I push em to the wack
And watch em get smacked I'm servin up raw facts
Underground gold like oil but you ain't gotta dig far
I'm scratchin' to the top cuz baby I'm a star

Chorus

The new millenium Zach Morris smashin' these wack tourists
Takin' em back towards the place where they snap forward
The line of scrimmagin ya'll dress like m&ms
Colorful clothes lookin oh so feminine
Fuck that image shit
It's all a gimmick and
It's phony as hell I'm bringin back that vintage shit
Bringing back the penmanship
It's the world series of lyricism and I'm takin' back the pennant fam
Ya'll bats is corked your whole form is poor
You never sayin' nothin' and you bitch the core
I am the essence every songs a blessing
Now run this shit back and let me teach you a lesson

Chorus

05 Comfort Fit / Rock da Dam
(Featuring Portformat) (3:51)
(from the Error Broadcast release 'Bag Of Nothingness' ebc001)

ERROR BROADCAST
presents:
BAG OF NOTHINGNESS
POSTED
NO TRESPASSING
KEEP OUT

Pioneer

Written, produced & performed by: B.Mezga and I. M'Bodji
Recorded at: The Headroom in Mannheim, Germany
Year: 2009
Release URL:
http://www.error-broadcast.com/index.php/releases/show/release/ebc001
Artist URL:
http://www.comfortfit.de
http://www.myspace.com/comfortfit
Featured Artist URL:
http://www.myspace.com/portformat
Netlabel: Error Broadcast
Netlabel URL:
http://www.error-broadcast.com
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

Rock da Dam (Featuring Portformat)

This isn't your great great great grand-daddy's hip-hop. This is that sound that you've got bumping from your brand-new PATV (Personal Air Transport Vehicle). You know… one of them 2064 joints made by Tesla Motors.

Comfort Fit

The career of a young music addict: Being introduced to the world of audio sampling with 4, mixing tapes with 9, djing at clubs with 12, producing beats with 14 and finally releasing the debut album with 18 on Megahertz Records. After releasing his critically acclaimed *Forget and Remember LP* and some EPs on Tokyo Dawn Records, compilation requests from all over the world followed as well as remix jobs on major labels. Even major brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Motorola

and Chevrolet starting using his music for advertisements.

His new album *Polyshufflez* is already in production and will be released soon on Tokyo Dawn Records.

Portformat

Portformat aka Ibrahima M'Bodji is a highly acclaimed Senegalese experimental hip-hop producer currently living in Germany. Although he's not religious at all, he grew up under a strict Muslim education. Being quickly bored of a narrow-minded environment, he decided to move away and started a whole new life - with absolutely nothing in his pockets, except his genius music skills.

Deeply dedicated to music since his first days, Portformat is completely devoted to electronic music production. He's catching the attention of a constantly growing number of listeners and DJs around the world, chances are good you'll be the next one getting addicted to his hypnotic grooves.

Error Broadcast

Error Broadcast is a record- and a Netlabel. You can download all our releases in reasonable quality for free or purchase uncompressed audio. To make you kids remember what it was like back in the days, every release is accompanied by a limited edition of vinyl 7"s with password to download exclusive tracks and remixes.

Error is the glitch that interferes with crept over mainstream Hip Hop, the increment of postmodernism.

Broadcast refers to Chuck D's idea of Rap as an alternative social organ. The term works as a tribute to traditional Golden Age Hip Hop the same as it underlines the collective's self-perception as "independent".

We are releasing contemporary experimental Hip Hop music.

06 Stromble Fix / Pass Away (4:36)
(from the independent release 'Punks not dead')

PUNKS
NOT
DEAD!

Written by:
Lyrics: Frank Eilmes
Music: Stromble Fix
Produced by: Stromble Fix
Performed by:
Guitar and vocals: Frank
Bass: Tuffy Brazil
Drums: The Axe
Recorded at: Bunker Gelsenkirchen, Germany
Year: 2004
Release URL:
http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/6432
Artist URLs:
http://www.stromblefix.de
http://www.jamendo.com/en/artist/stromble.fix
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

Pass Away

Frank's vocals remind me of a cross between David Bowie and Iggy Pop. The raw energy rumbling behind the vocals reminds me of the Misfits. No kids… as the title of their release clearly states… punk isn't dead. Not. One. Fucking. Bit.

Stromble Fix

Stromble Fix originally formed in 1990 as a 5-piece hardcore-punk band. Since their reformation in 2002 as a 3-piece they have released two CDs which cover a wide range of dark independent guitar music. Mixing together punk rock, new wave, and grunge with a psychedelic beat Stromble Fix are just a great live experience.

Their 3rd album will be out in September 2009 under Creative Commons license and also as a physical release.

Lyrics

Candles shine unloving
Violins break the silence
Diamonds glitter unfeeling
Holy water - deep-frozen

Are you prepared - are you firm enough
You're at the aim - are you firm - enough

Memories awaken and stiffen
Like faces - unforgotten
Comprehend it -
All stories are ending here
Always at the same place -
At the same place - at the grave

Are you prepared - are you firm enough
You're at the aim - are you firm - enough

Train of thoughts - unfinished
Flowers just decorate this place
And all words - so meaningless
At this place - your grave

TDK
DYNAMIC CASSETTE
TYPE I NORMAL
CASSETTE MECHANISM
EQ

07 Confusion Is Next / Graffiti (5:05)
(from the upcoming Trastienda/AF-Music release
'The Generation of This Order' Available in July/August 2009)

www.confusion.next.it
CIN
CONFUSION
IS NEXT

PHOTO BY LAURA CAMNASIO

www.flickr.com/camden_girl

Written by:
Lyrics: Matteo Radice
Music: M. Radice, L. Nocerino, F. Pontiggia, G. Pinnavaria
Produced by: Confusion Is Next
Performed by:
Guitar and vocals: Matteo Radice
Guitar: Lorenzo Nocerino
Bass: Giuseppe "Pinno" Pinnavaria
Drums: Fabrizio "Bicio" Pontiggia
Recorded at: Truck Studio in Seregno, Italy
Recorded by: Matteo Magni
Year: 2009
Release URL:
http://trastienda.org/2009/the-generation-of-this-order/
Artist URLs:
http://www.confusionisnext.tk
http://www.myspace.com/confusionisnext
Netlabels:
Trastienda
AF-Music
Netlabel URLs:
http://www.trastienda.org
http://www.af-music.de
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

Graffiti

You may remember CIN from their inclusion on *netBloc Vol 19: Doctorin' Ur Tastz*. In just a few years, CIN have matured into a confident band who have a clear vision

of exactly where they want to go. Their sound has definitely become their own and Graffiti stands out as the definitive track to represent it. Alt-rock that's melodic, dynamic and wrapped in impeccable production.

Confusion Is Next

Established in Monza, Italy, in 2004, Confusion Is Next is an alternative rock quartet spreading chaos over the netaudio cyberscene with self production and DIY spirit. After the supa-grungy teenage riot fueled 2005 *Spread The Spirit* got published by the spanish netlabel Trastienda in 2007, the band released another lo-fi noisy record called *Lost In Dark Days* in 2008 on Trastienda and Ekleipsi Netlabel, showing the shift from the bleached jeans days to darker atmospheres and complex structures. One year later, CIN is about to release *The Generation of This Order* in a free version on Trastienda Netlabel and in a deluxe digital version on Af Music: a 70's psychedelia and modern post rock blend. A 5 song, 30 minute long journey thru sonic nights, white venetian masks and dark shadows.

Trastienda

Trastienda.org was born as a netlabel during the summer of 2005 in Salamanca (Spain). Since then, has released tons of free works under a Creative Commons license. It's probably one of the few netlabels providing not only a great variety of rock releases, mainly experimental stuff, but also kick-ass folk, pop and electronic records.

All the works belong to their authors. Although trastienda. org has participated actively in the production of some of the records, usually just releases them and provides a space for collaboration between artists. Maybe someday we will be able to go further…

AF-Music

afmusic began parallel to one of germany's most popular scene-netradios and as a label really got off to a lightning start in 2008. From honorary newcomer-management to a professional business, that uses the possibilities of the world wide web for bands and fans.

afmusic is germany's most innovative label for dark wave, independent and gothic and within germany unique in this field.

But borders don't matter to afmusic anyway: afmusic boosts bands all over the world and interprets their part in the music business as a connection between musicians and their audience completely new. afmusic distributes music for real and digitally, supports bands with PR and management and fans are given a choice: you can listen to the records for free on www.af-music.de, download them in top-quality at a bargain price or buy "real" cds.

afmusic is proud about its 40 publications of around 30 bands and more than 300.000 downloads (and counting). Rising trend continues. The first aims are achieved: promising newcomers have an ideal platform and their fand a fair choice. the next goals are clear: More Records! More Bands! More Fans!

JOIN THE DARK SIDE OF INTERNET-MUSIC-REVOLUTION!

Lyrics

Too far from the city lights, I gotta find
A path to walk tonite
And instead I feel lost
And I fear that's a feeling I may like
For the most of my life
Spending time hiding from society lights
Turn the desert in road, yes you can
When you have somewhere to go

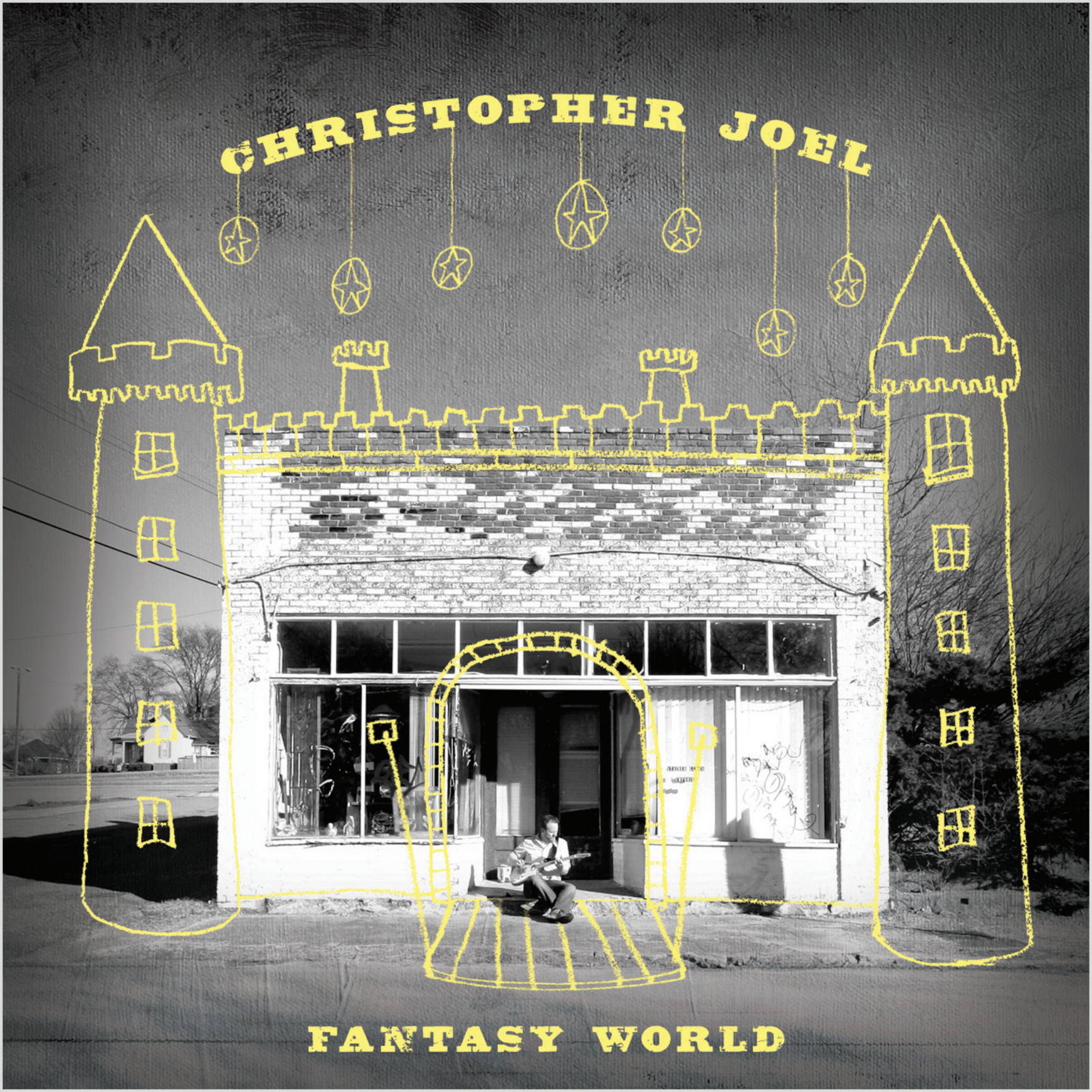
The yellow flash of generations' clash
We give ourselves, our heart, to save us
From being motionless
Spread the disease, wake up city!
We give ourselves, our heart, to save us
From being always in fear

Walking into the mid of town
Got a thought
The crowd is not aware
That something is wrong, even teens
Even youngsters, even me
Towns are made like our dreams
Our fear, our joy will make `em live
Turn the desert in road, yes you can
When you have somewhere to go

The yellow flash of generations' clash
We give ourselves, our heart, to save us
From being motionless
Spread the disease, wake up city!
We give ourselves, our heart, to save us
From being always in fear

Monday morning on the sidewalk
Running forward
They're closing the squat
Ending all on the last day of 2008 june
Too far from the city lights
Graffiti will beat the time.

08 Christopher Joel / 11:11 (4:37)
(from the independent release
'Fantasy World')


CHRISTOPHER JOEL
FANTASY WORLD

Written by: Christopher Joel
Produced by: Michael Estok and Christopher Joel
Performed by:
Vocals, guitars and bass: Christopher Joel
Drums and guitars: Michael Estok
Recorded at: Vibe Dial Studio in Nashville, TN
Year: 2009
Release URL:
http://music.christopherjoel.com/album/fantasy-world
Artist URLs:
http://christopherjoel.com
http://music.christopherjoel.com
http://myspace.com/christopherjoel
http://twitter.com/christopherjoel
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Christopher-Joel/8309502975
http://youtube.com/officialcj
http://www.flickr.com/photos/christopherjoel/
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11:11

Turn those lights down low. Pull that special someone closer and let this infectious pop-rock set the mood.

Christopher Joel

Christopher Joel brings a refreshing take on the Alt-pop Rock genre to the Nashville music scene. Largely influenced by Jeff Buckley, John Mayer, and Self's Matt Mahaffey, CJ's music features songs about the story of life - love, emotion, and the

human experience. He writes not only to entertain, but to inspire the listener with catchy melodies, passionate vocals, and relatable stories.

CJ's EP, *Fantasy World,* was released in May of 2009 and features a mixture of interesting tales. The title track, *Fantasy World,* journals the awkward time between childhood and becoming a world-aware teen. *Not This Time* began as an accidental guitar riff that came to have a song about overcoming temptations written around it. Taking inspiration from noticing the time every night for a week, *11:11* is a love song inventing the mysterious magic of long-lasting love if kissing when all the numbers are ones.

While CJ has been playing and songwriting for 16 years, in 2008 he joined forces with drummer Jeremy Skowronski, bassist Taylor McRae, and guitarist/vocalist Michael Estok to begin performing his songs at various venues in Nashville. Currently, CJ is performing acoustic-only shows all around the southeast with the help of guitarist, vocalist, and fellow artist, Michael Estok.

Lyrics

You say broken clocks are right twice a day
But this clock ain't broken, it's ok
And the time is right for just one thing
And I know you want this as much as me

I can't sleep without one last thing
Help me get through the night
So come a little closer, yeah, come on over
We get one chance to do this right

So I say, Ooo, kiss me baby, it's 11:11
Ooo, kiss me baby it's 11:11

So you don't seem to see the significance

There's a mystical magic in this minute
Lips locked tight at this time of night
Can make a love, make a love last forever

That's why I say, Ooo, kiss me baby, it's 11:11
Ooo, kiss me baby it's 11:11

I'll make any old excuse to get a kiss from you, so I guess the time'll do
Cause baby, baby, baby, you're the one, the one, the one, the one

So I say, Ooo, kiss me baby, it's 11:11
Ooo, kiss me baby, it's 11:11
What a magic time of night, it's 11:11
Let's make this last a lifetime, it's 11:11

Lyrics © 2009 Christopher Joel Wilcoxson

09 Entertainment for the Braindead / Animals (6:42)
(from the Aaahh Records release 'Seven (+1)' aaahh.005)

seven
+1

Written, produced and performed by: Julia Kotowski
Recorded at: Julia's home studio
Year: 2009
Release URL:
http://aaahh-records.net/entertainment-for-the-braindead-seven/
Artist URLs:
http://www.entertainmentforthebraindead.com
http://myspace.com/entertainmentforthebraindead
http://www.twitter.com/eftb
Netlabel: Aaahh Records
Netlabel URL: http://aaahh-records.net
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

Animals

The soft melodies and Julia's delivery of her illustrative lyrics combined with the dynamic instrumentation make for a stirring listening experience.

Entertainment for the Braindead

Entertainment for the Braindead is a one-woman-lofi-project of Cologne based art student Julia Kotowski who has a preference for funny small instruments and found objects as musical requisites to her songs. Since around 2007 she occasionally locks herself in her home office to record songs of which the first collection was released in early 2008.

Aaahh Records

We would like to introduce a quote from Richard Stallman who once said: "(…) To understand the concept, you should think of "free" as in "free speech", not as in

“free beer””. Although he was talking about free software, we would like to apply this attitude towards “free music”. So, all the songs realeased by our label are not only free in price. They carry the freedom to share, to remix and, of course, to listen to wherever, whenever and however you like.

Like many other netlabels, we would like to give you an interesting answer to the ongoing changes in the so-called music industry. But hold … you think we dislike good ol’ cd and vinyl, let us tell you that we will offer you real records, too - records you can touch, lick or nail to your wall. The difference is that the balance between free music and expensive records will be turned upside down. So again, “free”, in this sense, implies music the artist wants to share with the world, because he/she doesn’t like to see his/her music as an inflexible or colourless product.

By the way: As a young label we are always searching for talented artists. So if you are one of those and if you like our concept, we would be enthusiasted to hear from you.

Lyrics

I can feel the spikes again, protruding through my skin.
So will you keep your distance please or
You might make the acquain’tance of the hedgehog in me

I’m losing grip again
I’m giving way again
I’m losing ground again
The ground gives way
Again

And it was nice to see the sun and lie stretched out in its rays.
But something drags me underground, makes me want to burrow deep -
The mole in me claims to know better.

I’m losing grip again
I’m giving way again
I’m losing ground again
The ground gives way
Again

September is the time for me to draw back and to hide,
To curl up and sleep my life away. it always tends to be that way -
The dormouse in my gets pretty tired

But don’t you worry, don’t you fret when I am acting strange.
I’m just some funny animal
That struggles, bites and bolts and hides
And shys away and spends the day
In doubt of everything

I’m losing grip again
I’m giving way again
I’m losing ground again
The ground gives way
Again

10 Martin Carr / Why You Gotta Bring Me All This Rain? (2:46)
(from the Eardrums Pop release 'Birdsongs, Beesongs – Volume B' and the forthcoming independent release "Ye Gods (and little fishes)")

Birdsongs, Beesongs

Written by: Martin Carr
Produced by: Charlie Francis and Martin Carr
Performed by:
Guitar: Martin Carr
Vocals: Mary Wycherley
Bass: Paul Mylarnski
Drums: Andrew Plain
Keys: Charlie Francis
Recorded at: Music Box Studio 3 in Cardiff, UK
Year: 2008
Release URL:
http://www.eardrumspop.com/2009/04/12/birdsongs-beesongs---volume-b/
Artist URLs:
http://www.martin-carr.com
http://twitter.com/Martin_Carr
http://www.myspace.com/martincarrmusic
http://www.bravecaptain.co.uk
Netlabel: Eardrums Pop
Netlabel URL: http://www.eardrumspop.com
License: Copyright © Martin Carr, Used with permission

Why You Gotta Bring Me All This Rain?

An exceptional song that for the most part exudes an alt-country/alt-pop vibe… but when that chorus hits you with it's almost 60s Motown sound it instantly transforms into something far more. At the center of all this is Mary Wycherley's beautiful voice which is perfectly suited for the task.

Martin Carr

Martin Carr started making records twenty years ago with his band The Boo Radleys who split in 1999. As bravecaptain he released five albums covering a myriad of musical styles on the way. The first album under his own name *Ye Gods (and little fishes)* will be released in July on Sonny Boy Records.

Eardrums Pop

Eardrums Pop is the label, Eardrums Music is the music blog. We release digital only albums/compilations/singles/special projects and combine it with good artworks. So far, everything we have done have been made available for free.

All our downloads have been approved by the artists/labels/managements.

You can contact us at info@eardrumspop.com

Lyrics

Why you gotta bring me all this rain
And set it down at my door?
Can't you see the sunshine through the window
Make pretty patterns on the floor

And the dark shapes at your shoulder
Will win if you don't take them on
Things get harder as you get older
You just have to carry on

Times you seem so very far away
Times I can't reach you at all
If something's wrong then why can't you just say?
It's like talking to the wall

Maybe I should go?
Leave you to go under

But breaking up just ain't my style
And together we are better
Why you gotta bring me all this rain?

11 Jay Slim / Thought You Knew (3:45) (Bonus)
(from the Just Plain Sounds release 'The High Life' JPS002)

JAY SLIM

THE HIGH LIFE

JUST PLAIN ANT
BRAD OBLIVION
SLEAZE

JDOPENESS
JPS

Written & performed by: Justin Hedrick
Produced by: Just Plain Ant
Recorded at: Northside Livingroom Studios & Vintage Youth Studio
Year: 2009
Release URL:
http://www.archive.org/details/jps_002
Artist URLs:
http://www.myspace.com/jayslimthinpockets
http://jivepartridge.blogspot.com
Netlabel: Just Plain Sounds
Netlabel URL:
http://www.archive.org/details/just-plain-sounds
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/us/

Thought You Knew

Another outstanding example of Jay Slim's ability to ride on top of Ant's impeccable production. This recontextualisation of 80s soul into a hip-hop package makes for one slick listening experience.

Jay Slim

Jay Slim is a lyricist from Richmond, VA under the Just Plain Sounds label. He strives to keep lyricism true and natural with no filler. He is not the cocky rapper and would prefer that you listen to the music and make your own decisions.

Just Plain Sounds

Just Plain Sounds is a hip-hop net.label founded by Just Plain Ant. We specialize in good music that'll keep your head nodding. Just something for everyone to enjoy.

Lyrics

Dressed to the 9s fresher than a pine tree hangin' from the rearview mirror
I'm steppin' out
Ready to get mixed in action
Pop bottles light it up and get to relaxin'
With a fine young thing like you I spotted your body from across the room
Said hello now the game ensues
I think your cute got me in hot pursuit
Bumpin' the Isleys while we knockin' the boots
Ain't nothin new, you ain't gettin' no special attention
In case I forgot to mention
It's a one night stand I am not your man
And you can pack it on up if lockin' me down was part of your plan
Cuz I ain't got the time or that patience
Just tryin to do right for one night exchange faces
And maybe get the digits to your personal phone
So I can hit you up later for another sensational bone

Chorus

Girl I ain't your man its just a one night stand
I thought you knew
Ain't the one from your dreams I just wanted a fling
I thought you knew
Don't even start trippin cuz you let me hit it
I thought you knew
Yeah you look fine but you ain't gettin my time
I thought you knew

I'll be the one your friends say is the bad guy but that's so untrue
I just wanna have fun with you
We can kick on the weekend strictly for the freakin'

No ends no I ain't spendin' a dime
You a dime that's a compliment but use your common sense
Cuz when it come time for leavin' you ain't stoppin him
I'm out the door said it before I'm a rollin stone and you the moss and shit
I just show up to the door rub your carpet and
Kiss your mouth turn it out get a hard one in
Then I'm out faster than I came…
That's just the rules of the game
See I'm only down for abusin' your frame
You can save the drama and get the jewels from the lames
You need to stop it right now if you think I'm comin out of pocket
Like you gonna make a profit

Chorus

Babygirl it's nothin' personal you gotta understand
I'm not tryin' to play you for the fool or play it cool
Or treat you like another groupie fan or run some kind of scam
Stealin' your heart then dart like a flash in the pan
It just ain't in my fashion
To get all caught up in the love and the passion
I'm wearin' a glove when I'm smashin' to avoid child support harrassment
Stop askin', when I'm gonna stop frontin' and make you the one
Cuz it ain't in the cards and girl you gonna get trumped
And you gonna get dumped for another just as fine
And just as ready to fall for a game like mine
I never wanted your heart but I respected your mind as long as you respected my grind
And gave me some time to get our bodies intertwined like pretzels
But you fucked it up so I left you

Chorus

12 Just Plain Ant /
The New Black Sampler (10:00) (Bonus)
(Excerpts from the upcoming
Just Plain Sounds release 'The New Black')

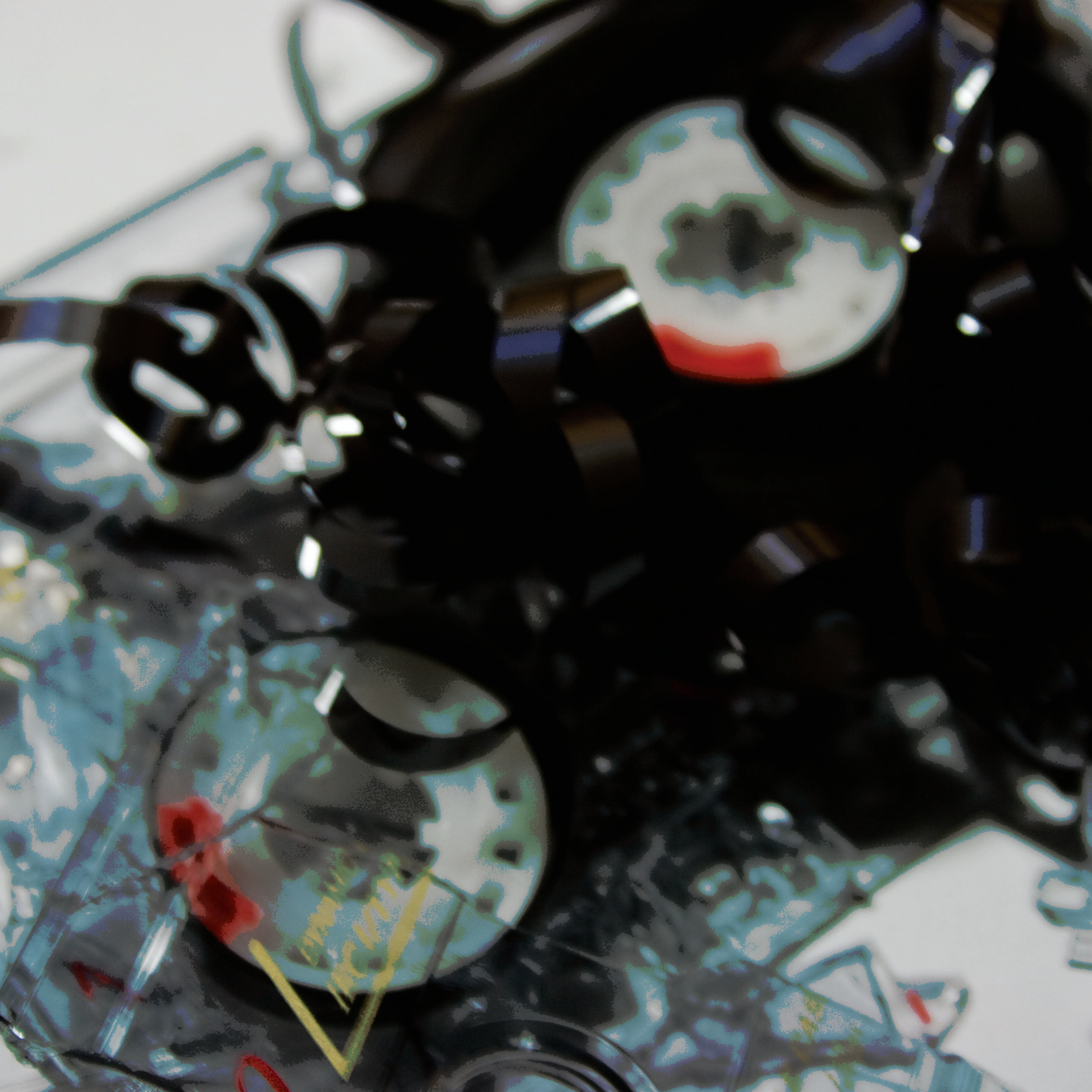
Produced by: Just Plain Ant
Recorded at: Vintage Youth Studio
Year: 2009
Artist URLs:
http://www.myspace.com/justplainant
http://antdotnet.blogspot.com
Netlabel: Just Plain Sounds
Netlabel URL:
http://www.archive.org/details/just-plain-sounds
License:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/us/

Just Plain Ant

Just Plain Ant (Anthony Gillison) is the next hot producer straight outta Richmond, Va. He's been producing since 2005. In 2006, things started to take off with meetings with different artists from around the country. Later after working on a few tracks and finding perfect chemistry, Ant became the 3rd member of Richmond hip-hop group, EENJ. Keep a look out for different upcoming projects.

Just Plain Sounds

Just Plain Sounds is a hip-hop net.label founded by Just Plain Ant. We specialize in good music that'll keep your head nodding. Just something for everyone to enjoy.



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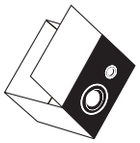

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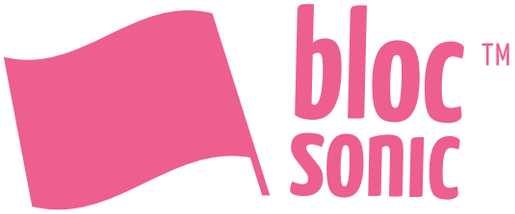

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