

What is the essence of this stream of music that flows in these Soundcarriers tracks? How does it all connect – to its audience, to other groups, even to the Free Design? I think I'm going out of my head: minor 7 chords, major 7 chords. Soft, breathy voices – the way we sang in the back seat of a '65 Chevy on a shy date – born of that modern invention, the microphone. My dad would hear overwrought opera singers belting their wobbles to get over the orchestra and say, "Why don't they just use a mic?"

So my generation inherited crooners, and passed them on. Intimacy built into your DNA.

Maybe the Free Design planted the seed for the magic garden of intricate group harmonies that blended this softer sound, not much vibrato even in louder moments. The Soundcarriers use that and much more to enter that world. At the root is some richly vulnerable optimism. It takes a weird inner strength to pit flutes and quiet voices against drums and electronics and the rest of the world.

It's jazz-blessed with bass lines, superimposing major and minor, building on diverse drum beats of the living, vamping till ready. Some took it to Motown, some carried it to Liverpool, or

Memphis, or LA, or kept it right there in NYC. It's part of the '60's that The Soundcarriers blend with the psyche of the new millennium.

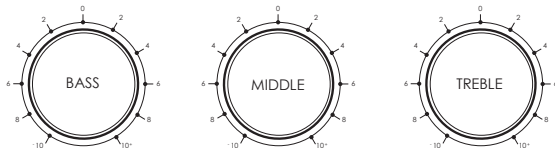
It's folk-blessed with guitar patterns and messages and poetry and license for naivety. It's filled with irreverent rock and roll influence and sounds. It's just not trying to pimp a hit. It lives for its own moment – and the joy of the playback. And the fun of the adaptation for the road show (so much easier these days, I think).

It's melody-blessed. A graph of the melodies of much of today's popular music is very plain. Thank the muse for the peaks and valleys and the patterns of this wandering sound-stream.

The essence always boils down to the creativity of the band itself – not just members' personalities, but to promptings and inner needs that will only surface years later. We make music to touch first our own souls. Without that we may touch others' pockets, but not likely their hearts.

No need to compare and make odious references. Best to listen in a kind of vacuum – let sound happen. The Soundcarriers do that in unlimited wavelengths.

Chris Dedrick, Toronto, February 2009



RECORD DESIRED LEVELS ON DIAGRAM FOR PREFERENTIAL PLAYBACK OUTPUT

MELODIC • TARIFF STREET • MANCHESTER • ENGLAND