

# CHAUNCEY CANFIELD

## PRODIGY, PRODUCER, DJ BIOLOGY WINNER

By Penelope Biver



**M**usician/producer Chauncey Canfield of Washington D.C. is the winner of Shure's DJ Biology contest held earlier this year. His track "Bergamot" was a unanimous choice by our judges including John Acquaviva, Danny the Wildchild, and Johnny Fiasco. Ironically, Canfield tells OTWS that the jazzy, smokey lounge-pleaser with freestyle keys, a bouncy bass line, and unstoppable dance beat was recorded in no time at all.

"I was playing around with the C-LOOPS [by Redsound—a tool that creates instant loops that cycle continuously in synch with each other and the original source, with varying pre-set sample lengths] using individual drum, bass, and Rhodes sounds (using my Roland XP-30). I started recording the results into Cakewalk Sonar, then triggered the loops on and off while soloing the main keyboard part live and operating the filter. I created the main keyboard part in a single take."

He began taking piano lessons when he was barely out of diapers, and was playing Bach by age six. He left the classical music world behind at age 13, however, for the more challenging realm of jazz. Then while attending the University of Michigan in the late eighties, he got his first taste of house music. "A lot of the big DJs would come through Detroit and we'd go to house parties and there'd be this great combination of techno coming out of Europe and they'd be spinning it with their own creations. It sounded great and we danced to it, and I absorbed it all."

He was playing with various jazz groups until he came across two other guys back in 2000 that wanted to experiment with an electronic/jazz hybrid style. They formed the group Aubergine 3, and released their first record in April called *In All Things Modulation* (on LA-based independent Transistor Recordings), fusing live free

jazz with improvised electronic beats. Canfield also keeps many of his own solo tracks in rotation on his Groove Palace Internet radio station through [live365.com](http://live365.com).

Canfield would like to follow the lead of fellow DC electronic artists Thievery Corporation into the world of film and television music. "There's a small network of people in the electronic scene doing [film and TV music], he explains, "but it's getting bigger. It's a very lucrative way of financing your other projects." He also says that he has hundreds of tracks on his hard drives just waiting to be

finished, and would welcome the opportunity to work with other musicians or producers.

Canfield entered DJ Biology because of the tremendous prize package offered. He had never been to Winter Music Conference,

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and knew that it would be a valuable promotional opportunity for his music. He was also excited about the gear, including Shure's new Whitelabel cartridge, which he says is much more high-end than what he has been using. Canfield was especially enthusiastic about his new E2c earphones: "I use my laptop as a compositional tool, so having them to plug into it while I'm on the road will be much better than headphones."