

= Amon Tobin =

Amon Adonai Santos de Araújo Tobin (born February 7 , 1972) , known as Amon Tobin , is a Brazilian musician , composer and producer of electronic music . He is described as a virtuoso sound designer and is considered to be one of the most influential electronic music artists in the world . He is noted for his unusual methodology in sound design and music production . He has released seven major studio albums under the London @-@ based Ninja Tune record label .

In 2007 he released *Foley Room* , an album based entirely on the manipulation of field recordings . His latest album , 2011 's *ISAM* , included " female " vocals made from his own processed voice . His music has been used in numerous major motion pictures including *The Italian Job* and *21* . Tobin has created songs for several independent films , including the 2006 Hungarian film *Taxidermia* , and had his music used in other independent films such as the 2002 Cannes Palme d 'Or nominated *Divine Intervention* . A selection of his tracks were featured in commercial bumps on *Toonami* and in the 2005 anime *IGPX* , and he produced the musical scores to critically acclaimed video games *Tom Clancy 's Splinter Cell : Chaos Theory* by Ubisoft in 2005 , and *Sucker Punch 's Infamous* in 2009 .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early career (1995 ? 1997) = = =

Tobin was born in Rio de Janeiro , Brazil . At the age of 2 , he and his family left Brazil to live in Morocco , the Netherlands , London , Portugal and Madeira . Tobin settled in Brighton , England as a teenager which remained his permanent residence until 2002 . There he began producing electronic music in his bedroom with samplers and other audio equipment such as an Amstrad Studio 100 4 @-@ track , although he was " not really involved in the [music] scene " at that time . While taking an editorial photography class at a university in Brighton , he responded to a magazine promotion for the London @-@ based Ninebar record label asking artists to send in demos of their songs . Ninebar signed Tobin to the label in 1996 after hearing his early work , and he traveled between his home in Brighton and the studios in London to produce his first official works . He also spent some time living in Montreal before moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2008 .

Under his original moniker *Cujo* (in Portuguese , the word for whose) , he released a series of original compositions on 12 @-@ inch vinyl . AllMusic called them " head @-@ turning " in a review . Many of those tracks were later included on his first full @-@ length album *Adventures in Foam* , originally released in 1996 by Ninebar to a limited release of 5 @,@ 000 copies .

The larger Ninja Tune record label had been growing in the United Kingdom at the time with help from their successful artists such as DJ Food , Funki Porcini , The Herbaliser , and Coldcut . DJ Food and Funki Porcini noticed Tobin's work on *Adventures in Foam* and prompted the label to approach him . Ninja Tune signed Tobin in late 1996 , this time under his abbreviated name " Amon Tobin " . The official Ninja Tune website has said that *Adventures in Foam* had been re @-@ released without permission by the US @-@ based Shadow Records that same year and that this unauthorized version , labeled the " US release " , included only 7 of the original songs , different cover art , and that some tracks were titled incorrectly . In 1997 Ninja Tune acquired the proper licenses from Ninebar and re @-@ released the album themselves . This version included the original album in its entirety , and a second disc containing previously unreleased material . As of 2008 , copies of Shadow Record 's " US version " are still sold by online retailer Amazon.com. Over the course of its production , *Adventures in Foam* has been reviewed favorably . Ryan Schreiber of Pitchfork Media said that its break @-@ beat style " got totally out of hand " , but that it " never fails to let the listener know who 's in charge . " The album was released for a fourth time in 2002 , again by Ninja Tune .

= = = Defining albums (1997 ? 2002) = = =

Over the next several years , Tobin released three albums . Bricolage , released in 1997 , was the culmination of two projects Tobin had started after his debut album earlier that year . His third album Permutation was released in 1998 . Independent radio stations aired Tobin 's pieces during the summer of 1998 to positive listener reaction from conventional jazz aficionados , who identified with the computer @-@ generated drums and composition . In the late 1990s , sample @-@ based music was becoming more popular with a wide range of emerging and developing genres , but Tobin himself was still largely unknown . Tobin 's style of music was not seen as definitively belonging to one genre or another . The critics that commented on Bricolage and Permutation gave them positive reviews and they are often mentioned , by later reviewers and interviewers , as classic albums of the time . Pitchfork Media acclaimed the use of jazz instrument samples , comparing him to famous composers Quincy Jones and Miles Davis . In a 1999 review , they awarded Bricolage a very rare 10 / 10 and said that it was " one of the most inventive records of the decade . "

Tobin released his fourth album , Supermodified in 2000 . The album is regarded as his most commercial album to date . Critic reviews were generally positive , with Pitchfork rating the album 9 @. @ 1 / 10 , and Stylus Magazine saying , " Not many studio @-@ bound electronic musicians could put forward such a vivid and dynamic statement or make it as entertaining and downright funky as Supermodified has managed to do . "

= = = Montreal (2002 ? present) = = =

In 2002 , Tobin relocated to Montreal , Canada where he had spent time previously at Ninja Tune 's North American Headquarters . Tobin lived in the industrial area of Old Montreal to avoid noise complaints from neighbors after dark . There he produced his fifth album Out From Out Where released that same year . This was his first album created primarily in a professional studio . He later released a single , Verbal , taken from Out From Out Where . Otis Hart of Dusted Magazine said that Tobin 's style of producing had come into its own . He acclaimed Tobin 's " refined sense of tempo " .

In January 2004 , Tobin was contracted by video game company Ubisoft Montreal to compose the soundtrack for the third installment of their critically successful Tom Clancy 's Splinter Cell series , Tom Clancy 's Splinter Cell : Chaos Theory . To facilitate using the music in a video game , where the level of action or plot can change in real @-@ time , each track was broken down by Tobin into four distinct but similar parts based on their level of intensity . The game 's developers could then use each section to provide music based on the actions of the player . Despite not being an official album in Tobin 's discography , it was considered a ground breaking work in the world of video game sound tracks described as " an entirely new era of media " by Tiny Mix Tapes

The album continued the trend Tobin started with Out From Out Where , as he used more field recordings during production . In addition to being included with the game , Ninja Tune released the score as an individual album in 2005 , titled Chaos Theory ? Splinter Cell 3 Soundtrack , several months before the game 's release . It was received well , benefiting from a wider audience of reviewers in both the music and gaming industries . Ben Hogwood of MusicOMH.com applauded Tobin 's use of melody and texture , adding that he controlled the sounds with the " clarity of a classical orchestrator . " He later recorded a Dolby Digital 5 @. @ 1 surround sound version of the album with audio engineer Bobby Azinsky in a dedicated Solid State Logic studio in Los Angeles .

Tobin 's sixth studio album , Foley Room , was released in 2007 . The title alludes to the " foley rooms " used by recording engineers and foley artists to record sound effects in the movie industry . On this album , Tobin concluded his transition away from prerecorded source material that started with Out From Out Where . All of the samples used for production were recorded by himself using an omnidirectional microphone . Recorded primarily in Montreal , San Francisco , and Seattle , the samples came from a wide range of sources including motorbikes , tigers , insects , and water falling from a tap . Also contributing to the album were the string quartet Kronos Quartet , drummer Stefan Schneider , and harpist Sarah Pagé . Foley Room 's use of field @-@ recordings was used to help promote the album , including two official pre @-@ release trailers posted to YouTube . Nate Dorr of

PopMatters.com called it a " smooth , natural progression " from his work on Supermodified . The first single , " Bloodstone " , was released to the iTunes Music Store months before the rest of the album . Ninja Tune also published a DVD titled Foley Room : Found Footage which documented the recording process .

In 2008 , Tobin announced he was working on a new video game soundtrack for an " undisclosed PS3 title " . This was later revealed to be the PlayStation 3 exclusive game , inFamous , and in 2010 , Tobin announced that he would be working on the music for Tom Clancy 's Splinter Cell : Conviction . Recent works include " Hey Mr. Tree " as a ' Bonus Joint ' to accompany his earlier ' Monthly Joint ' collection , a remix of Noisia 's " Machine Gun " released alongside remixes by 16 Bit and Spor , and a collaboration with ESKMO dubbed Eskamon . Eskamon has released a single " Fine Objects " . A new AT record has also been officially announced via www.amontobin.com , for which he is " researching and developing new production tools and techniques " and using " a whole new array of gadgetry from the past and the future " .

Amon Tobin 's sounds and samples are frequently used in the British car @-@ based TV show Top Gear , and his song " Four Ton Mantis " has been used in a few of the more recent Nissan Qashqai and Juke advertisements .

= = Musical style and influences = =

Tobin is best known for his use of audio manipulation techniques , where any given source material is transformed to produce a new sound . His use of this technique has changed over the course of his career . On his original singles under Ninebar and his first three albums , Tobin acquired all of the sound sources to produce music from his personal collection of vinyl records . He manipulates the sounds with a combination of audio hardware and software such as Cubase , often leaving the original source unrecognizable in its new context . The majority of his early work focused on reordering the break beats from jazz and blues music into faster more complex patterns . Guido Farnell of InTheMix.com , wrote about his use of this technique , saying that Tobin has " taken the art to new and dizzying heights . " His fifth album Out From Out Where , began the gradual shift away from prerecorded material by incorporating original guitar samples . His techniques began branching into technical sound design , taking break beats or single instruments , modifying specific frequencies , and producing new sounds . This trend continued through his video game score Tom Clancy 's Splinter Cell : Chaos Theory Soundtrack , and by his sixth album , Foley Room , all of the source material was recorded in the field by himself . Speaking about the creativity of sample @-@ based music compared to traditional instruments , he says that " creative input is not determined by your source material but in how you edit and manipulate the sounds . "

Tobin experimented with various instruments . He does not come from a music family , nor has he had any formal training in music theory . About his music in general , Tobin says that he sees it as a " genuine " expression of the time he lives in , as he says that by contrast , blues , jazz , and Brazilian genres were " genuine " expressions of the 1960s . Despite his indirect connection with Brazilian genres , Tobin collaborated with a number of artists on Bebel Gilberto 's 2000 bossa nova album Tanto Tempo . Tobin 's albums are often compared to soundtracks , and he says that movies by David Lynch have influenced him . In addition , he has stated to like films by the Coen brothers , Dario Argento , and Roman Polanski .

= = Live performances = =

Tobin began performing live shows in clubs with other Ninja Tune artists after releasing his second album , Bricolage . His shows generally contained music that he had produced during his career , mixed with modified songs from drum and bass , hip @-@ hop , or other genres . Because his music was entirely produced in a studio with electronics , Tobin was not interested in adapting his music to suit a Live PA incorporating musicians . He instead used turntables which he felt had more in common with his approach to music production . He is known for building Dolby Digital 7 @.@ 1 surround sound speaker systems for his performances .

In 2011 Tobin has developed a live show in support of the album ISAM fitting his criteria for a performance that is both live and purely electronic . He told Wired Magazine " The idea was to integrate myself , quite literally , into an audio and visual presentation of the album , " . It incorporates the use of new video mapping techniques that are projected onto a large cubic structure from which Tobin performs . The show has been met with international acclaim described by Vice Magazine 's Creators Project as " revolutionizing the live music experience " .

Tobin has performed individual shows in many countries including tours in Europe , Australia , Japan , and the United States . His 2003 live performance in Melbourne , Australia was used for the fourth album in Ninja Tune 's Solid Steel series because Tobin was not available to record a studio mix at the time . Many songs from the original recording were omitted because of copyright issues with the original artists , including the R & B group Destiny 's Child .

A second Solid Steel album called Foley Room Recorded Live in Brussels was recorded in Brussels at the Ancienne Belgique in 2007 and was released for free in November 2008 . According to Tobin 's official website , " After months of back and forth and despite everyone 's best efforts the mix was in danger of being edited into the ground to accommodate big labels and publishers . Rather than release a compromised version commercially , the decision was made to give it away for free instead . "

= = Discography = =

Tobin has released eight major studio albums :

1996 : Adventures in Foam (under alias Cujo)

1997 : Bricolage

1998 : Permutation

2000 : Supermodified

2002 : Out from Out Where

2005 : Chaos Theory ? Splinter Cell 3 Soundtrack

2007 : Foley Room

2011 : ISAM

In addition , his body of work includes 21 extended play (EP) albums which contain several B @-@ sides each , a live album for Ninja Tune 's Solid Steel series , new material for various compilation albums , and original tracks available as free downloads on his website .

Tobin 's music has been used in several major motion pictures including The Italian Job and 21 . He has also produced tracks for a number of independent films , such as The Last Minute , and has created production music for the BMG Zomba commercial library which is used in various films . In 2006 he scored the soundtrack for the Hungarian horror film Taxidermia which was made available on his website . He also produced the score for the 2009 documentary Pax Americana and the Weaponization of Space .

In 2006 he began collaborating on a hip @-@ hop oriented project with drum & bass / jungle producer Doubleclick and a number of guest vocalists . Under the name Two Fingers , the pair have released several singles followed by their self @-@ titled debut album in 2009 .

In 2009 he collaborated on a track titled Sylo with the UK drum and bass artist Dom & Roland for the album No Strings Attached .

In April 2010 , a small body of work Tobin composed and produced for the video game Tom Clancy 's Splinter Cell : Conviction was available for streaming on his website .

In January 2011 , his artist page was updated on Ninja Tune 's official website , announcing a new album in 2011 , called ISAM , as well as a Splinter Cell : Chaos Theory remix album . Later , the official Ping Pong Facebook page suggested that ISAM would be released on May 9 , 2011 . After being leaked by a journalist with a press copy of the album , ISAM was instead released on April 20 , 2011 .

In 2015 , four years since his last EP , Tobin released Dark Jovian (EP) , which contains tracks made after " binge @-@ watching space exploration films . "