

BIOGRAPHY

ELECTRONIC MUSIC · FRANCE

JCR2

COMPOSER · PRODUCER · REMIXER

Electronica

Ambient

Techno

House

Trance

Synthpop

Eurodance

Synthwave

Film music

FROM MP3.COM TO BANDCAMP
OVER THIRTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENT CREATION

1990S — 2026

A *self-taught* electronic musician, born with the Internet

JCRZ is a French electronic music composer, producer and remixer, active since the early 1990s. Self-taught, he works mainly with synthesizers, sequencers and computer-based music production. His official website stresses that he never had any traditional musical training and that he composes intuitively with his synthesizers and his computer.

His musical world spans many styles — electronica, ambient, techno, house, trance, synthpop, eurodance, synthwave and film music — shaped by openly acknowledged influences, from the pioneers of electronic music to 1990s dance and the great film composers.



01 From digital beginnings to the first platforms

JCRZ's path is closely tied to the beginnings of music distribution on the Internet. After his first electronic compositions in the early 1990s, JCRZ dates his first experiments with digital distribution to around **1996**, when the MP3 format was only just emerging.

His presence on **MP3.com** should, however, be placed slightly later: the platform launched at the end of **1997**, and one of its first engineers states that it began accepting tracks directly from independent musicians in the summer of **1998**. JCRZ thus belongs to the first generation of artists who used the Internet and MP3 to distribute their own music, long before YouTube, SoundCloud, Bandcamp or Spotify.

02 Jamendo and free music

In the 2000s, **Jamendo** became one of the main outlets for the JCRZ catalogue, under the historic profile **2189/jcrz**. At the time, the official website explicitly presented JCRZ as free electronic music released on Jamendo under a **Creative Commons licence**.

This period is particularly important. In an interview published in January **2010**, writer and critic Robert Nagle introduced JCRZ as a French electronic musician who had already released **twelve albums on Jamendo**. Six of them are named in the interview and have been matched to their original Jamendo pages, from which the release dates are taken:

	No. 2142	<i>Kind of Music</i>	June 10, 2006
	No. 3186	<i>Fractal Attraction</i>	October 28, 2006
	No. 7602	<i>Sit Down & Dance 2.0</i>	September 11, 2007
	No. 31114	<i>Checksum of Life</i>	September 11, 2008
	No. 48263	<i>Non-compliant Human Being</i>	before 2010
	No. 54747	<i>Volume 10</i>	November 2009

The interview also highlights tracks such as *Dreamsequence*, *Attraction Zero*, *Rollercoaster*, *Memory Lost*, *Red Javeline (Sun Mix)*, *Blue Javeline (Moon Mix)*, *Touched by an Angel* and *Urban Interlude*. *Rollercoaster* would go on to enjoy a second life fifteen years later, with its 2025 update.

Creative Commons distribution allowed this music to travel far beyond Jamendo. As early as **April 2007**, for example, JCRZ was featured in the international podcast *Expand Your Musical Horizons*, devoted to artists from netlabels, Jamendo and ccMixer among others; he was programmed again in May and August 2007.

This culture of sharing remained visible later on: in 2014, for instance, *Dialing to Nowhere* was played in a show using only Creative Commons-licensed music. JCRZ's own Mixcloud account points back to the former Jamendo profile and states a **CC BY-NC-ND** licence for the tracks concerned.

03 An intuitive method, a melancholic signature

The 2010 interview also sheds light on how JCRZ works. Everything starts from a synthesizer sound or a rhythm; then come the bass, pads, strings and other elements, built up gradually, by intuition.

A track is only kept after the “next-day test”: listening to it again with fresh ears, and deciding whether it deserves to exist.

FROM ROBERT NAGLE’S INTERVIEW — 2010

He links his self-taught background to a certain form of **minimalism**, and describes **melancholy** and the frequent use of minor keys as the most recognisable traits of his music. Beyond records, he also cites his travels — to **Africa** and **Brazil** — and the atmosphere of European clubs among his sources of inspiration.

MILESTONES

1990s

First electronic compositions

1996

First experiments with digital distribution

1998

MP3.com opens up to independent musicians

2006

Kind of Music and *Fractal Attraction*, first albums on Jamendo

2007

Sit Down & Dance 2.0, *Expand Your Musical Horizons* podcast

2010

Robert Nagle interview: twelve albums on Jamendo

2015

Jubilee opens the current discography

2016

Soundtracks, an orchestral and cinematic turn

2020

Interceptor, *Paninaro* remix; Jean-Michel Jarre’s EÖN remix contest

2022

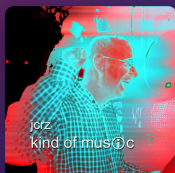
The Cinematic Project, *Tony’s Theme*

2026

Grey Clouds

The early discography

Before the current discography came a long series of self-produced releases, widely shared on Jamendo under a Creative Commons licence from 2006 onwards. Every cover is an original creation by the artist.



2006
Kind of Music



2006
Fractal Attraction



2007
Sit Down & Dance
2.0



Island Revisited



2008
Samples Of Myself



2008
Shadows Of Silence



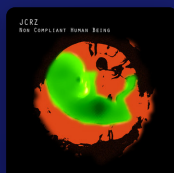
2008
Checksum Of Life



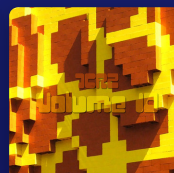
Out Of The Mix



2009
Farscape and ∞



Non-compliant
Human Being



2009
Volume 10



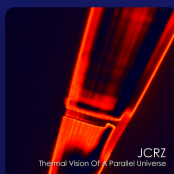
Fever (The Single)



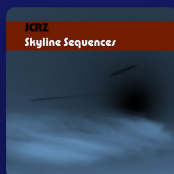
Digital Elegy



2010
RetroFuturism



2010
Thermal Vision Of
A Parallel Universe



Skyline Sequences



Midnight Horizons



Technology



Sequence Me



Return To
Monument Valley
- The Mixes



Return To
Monument Valley
- The Remixes



In Your Eyes



Connection



Unleashed



Touch



Smoke



Relooped



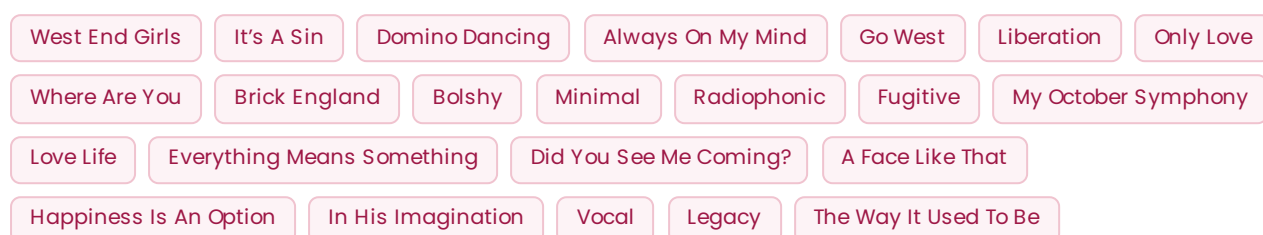
The Mission

04 A remixer's identity

Alongside his original music, JCRZ has built up a very substantial body of work as a **remixer**, particularly around the **Pet Shop Boys**. These are generally not remixes commissioned by the band or its label, but **unofficial fan remixes and mashups** made for pleasure, demonstration and promotion.

JCRZ states this explicitly on Mixcloud: his Pet Shop Boys remixes are **unofficial** works, while the original compositions remain the property of Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe.

The scale of this work is considerable. The selection *A 200 Minute Selection Of JCRZ Remixes*, published on Mixcloud, spans every era of the band:



These remixes have not stayed confined to fan communities. *The Way It Used To Be* is the most striking example: the video JCRZ made himself for his remix has reached a **very wide audience** on YouTube, rare for an unofficial production. His *Paninaro* remix (2020) has also found a large audience. The *Golden Age Ultra Extension Remix* version was also aired on **Radio Plus** on March 7, 2021.

His field of play also reaches beyond the Pet Shop Boys. A mix of Moby's *Go*, the *JCRZ Nowhere To Go Mix*, was recommended as early as 2010 on the Ask MetaFilter forum; Electronic's *Getting Away With It* received a *JCRZ Blended Remix*; and in 2020, JCRZ took part in the **EÖN** remix contest launched by **Jean-Michel Jarre**, one of his founding influences.

05 JCRZ cited by Wayne Studer / Geowayne

This work has been noticed within the international Pet Shop Boys fan community. **Wayne Studer**, creator of Geowayne, the reference website devoted to the band's work, personally lists JCRZ among his favourite mashups.

Studer singles out in particular **Pet Shop Boys vs Anne Clark – God Willing (JCRZ Remix)** and **Pet Shop Boys vs Giorgio Moroder – Vocal Racer**.

Writing about Vocal Racer, he notes that JCRZ has made a name for himself among fans of unofficial Pet Shop Boys remixes.

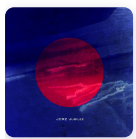
WAYNE STUDER — GEOWAYNE

Geowayne also lists another work by JCRZ, **Pet Shop Boys: Dictionary**, a project analysing the frequency of words used in the band's lyrics.

06 Original music: from electronica to cinema

Alongside his remix work, JCRZ has continually pursued his own composing. After the Jamendo years, his catalogue was reorganised from 2015 onwards on Bandcamp and the streaming platforms, starting with *Jubilee* — which features *Love Control* — followed by a series of albums increasingly shaped by film music.

This influence gradually took centre stage. JCRZ cites John Williams, Jerry Goldsmith, Hans Zimmer, Giorgio Moroder and John Carpenter among his cinematic references. In 2022, he even released his own version of Tony's *Theme*, the theme Giorgio Moroder composed for *Scarface*.



2015 *Jubilee*

July 14, 2015. The first milestone of the current discography, featuring *Love Control*.



2016 *Soundtracks*

April 15, 2016. An orchestral and electronic album inspired notably by Hans Zimmer, Vangelis, John Williams, Jerry Goldsmith and John Barry.



2016 *Eclipse*

December 28, 2016. Nine tracks.



2017 *Sunset Highway*

May 15, 2017. Nine tracks; the album would be revisited in 2023.



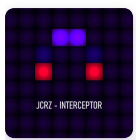
2017 *Wild Runner*

December 20, 2017. Twelve tracks inspired by the electronic soundtracks of the 1980s and 1990s.



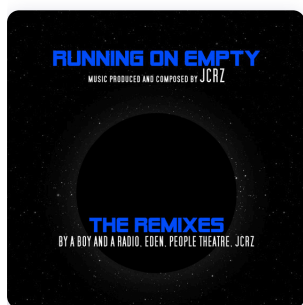
2019 *Urban Waves*

November 6, 2019. Ten tracks blending dreamwave, nu-disco and Italo disco.

	2020	<i>Interceptor</i>	August 25, 2020. Ten tracks.
	2021	<i>Fading Horizon</i>	May 17, 2021. Ambient, electronica, downtempo, chillout and orchestral elements.
	2021	<i>Beyond The Fading Horizon</i>	June 5, 2021. A mirror album with a more energetic feel, leaning towards synthwave and 1980s electronic music.
	2022	<i>The Quickenings</i>	Expanded Edition.
	2022	<i>The Cinematic Project</i>	Expanded Edition. A true film-music project combining electronics, ambient and orchestration, with references to Vangelis, Hans Zimmer, John Barry and Ennio Morricone.

07 **Current discography**

JCRZ's Bandcamp catalogue currently counts **31 releases**. Alongside the albums comes a series of singles, EPs, maxis and themed projects that extend or revisit the major works — *Wild Runner* in particular, reworked in four new versions in 2022.



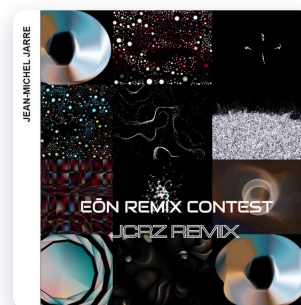
2017 · EP
Running On Empty – The Remixes



2018–2019
Purple Road · The Mixes



2019 · EP
In the Garden



2020 · REMIX
EÖN Remix Contest – JCRZ Remix



2021 · SINGLE
Another Angel



2022 · EP
Wild Runner – 2022 Mixes



2022
Spinning Planet – 2022 Remaster



2022
Cybercity



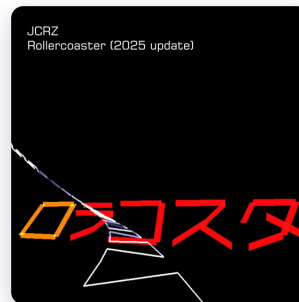
2022
Dawn Of Gods



2023 · MAXI
Sunset Highway Remixed And Revisited



2024 · SINGLE
City Night Lovers



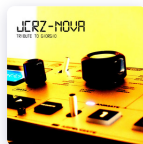
2025 · SINGLE
Rollercoaster – 2025 Update

Also released in 2022: Wild Runner – 2022 Remaster, Redrummed Remix and People Theatre's Virtue Mix; Tony's Theme (From "Scarface").

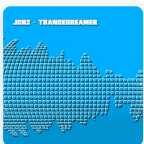
ALSO IN THE BANDCAMP CATALOGUE



Radio Robot · 2013



JCRZ-Nova – Tribute To Giorgio



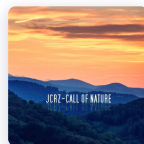
Trancedreamer



Modular



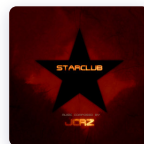
Electronic Rain



Call Of Nature



Dark Soundscapes



Starclub



LATEST RELEASE · 2026

Grey Clouds

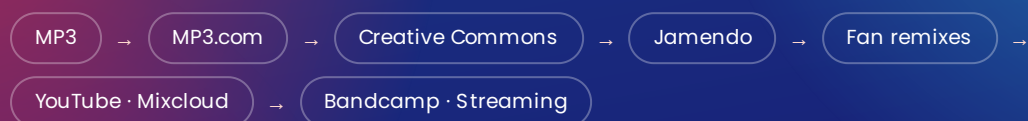
Released in September 2026, Grey Clouds is the latest chapter in his catalogue: more than thirty years after his first compositions, JCRZ continues to release melodic electronic music, fully independently.

IN SUMMARY

08 **Thirty years of independent electronic music**

JCRZ's path can thus be read as a journey through more than thirty years of **independent electronic creation and digital distribution**.

From the first music files of the 1990s to MP3.com, then from Jamendo and Creative Commons licences to remix communities, YouTube, Mixcloud and Bandcamp, JCRZ has evolved alongside each successive age of music on the Internet.



Original work

From trance and electronica to ambient, synthwave and cinematic landscapes, with one constant: melodic, often melancholic music.

Remixes

A large body of remixes and mashups, closely associated with the Pet Shop Boys, reaching all the way to radio.

The recognition of these remixes by **Wayne Studer on Geowayne**, their radio airplay and their wide online audience show how a body of work born as an unofficial Internet activity has developed its own history and its own international reach.

JCRZ thus stands as representative of a generation of independent musicians who lived through, in turn, **the dawn of MP3, MP3.com, free music and Creative Commons, Jamendo, fan-remix culture and today's digital distribution platforms**, while keeping an essentially personal and independent approach to making music.



ELECTRONIC MUSIC

SOURCES

Official website jcrz.com (historical biography and discography) · Robert Nagle, interview with JCRZ, *Idiotprogrammer / Imaginary Planet*, January 2010 · Jamendo, artist profile 2189 and album pages (release dates, given priority), via their Internet Archive copies · Bandcamp, Spotify and Apple Music (catalogue and release dates) · Mixcloud, *A 200 Minute Selection Of JCRZ Remixes* · YouTube, *The Way It Used To Be* video (JCRZ) and *Paninaro (JCRZ Remix 2020)* · Radio Plus, programme of March 7, 2021 · Geowayne (Wayne Studer), selection of mashups · O'Reilly, *MP3: The Definitive Guide*, and Museum of Portable Sound (MP3.com history).

Visuals: original JCRZ covers — artist's archives, Jamendo and jcrz.bandcamp.com; JCRZ logo.