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SON TENSEI RELEASES *VIRTUAL ISLAND*

A ten-track record about screens, work, and what it costs to stay human — from the Grammy-credited composer behind Tensei

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Listen: sontensei.com

CHICAGO / TOKYO — Son Tensei, the vocal project of Grammy-credited composer **Christopher R. Kramer**, releases ***Virtual Island***, a ten-song album about the distance between people and the machines standing between them.

Kramer spent fifteen years behind the boards as half of **Tensei**, releasing on **Plug Research** in Los Angeles alongside Flying Lotus, Bilal and Shafiq Husayn, and on Germany's **Tokyo Dawn Records**. The *Los Angeles Times* premiered his remix of Bilal's "Robots." Okayplayer named Tensei's *Constellate* a Project of the Year. In 2022 he composed and produced track six of J. Ivy's ***The Poet Who Sat By The Door***, which won **Best Spoken Word Poetry Album at the 65th Grammy Awards**.

Virtual Island is what happened when he stopped producing for other voices and used his own.

THE RECORD

The album opens with ***Music I Need***, a plain statement of dependence — *notes, words and vocal spells; as long as I got a bell I could survive life in hell.* It closes on ***The Wall*** with A. Billi Free.

In between it moves between two languages and several registers. ***Shitappa Life*** is sung almost entirely in Japanese, a working song about the bottom rung of a company hierarchy, built on a hook about a man being addressed as everything except his own name. ***Tanoshii Sugoshi*** closes in northern dialect. ***Sayonara*** and ***Last Call*** are for the floor.

And then the record turns. ***Never Again*** is about cutting people off. ***For the Kids***, with Yaw, is a direct address to the generation being handed the bill. ***Feet Forward*** is a single sustained argument for not stopping.

There is no persona on this album. After the Grammy, Kramer was approached with artist development and major label offers that required him to become a character. He declined.

> ***"They all had this pitch where 'we need you to be this person,' and I said no, I'm me. I didn't need to sell my soul to the devil to make it in music."***

THE VOICE

Kramer is a natural **baritenor** with no formal training. He freestyles daily, sings and raps across roughly two octaves, and performs in both English and native-pronunciation Japanese. He has sung with **Bobby McFerrin's Circle Songs** improvisation collective in Berkeley, where the music is built live with no charts.

He describes his own delivery as sung rap on a fixed tonal center — one instrument with a variable aperture rather than two separate modes.

THE INTENTION

> ***"The music is meant to inform, to inspire, and to awaken those who are compatible with it and need it. The choice always stays in the listener's hands. It's like a twelve-step program — people assume that's a substance thing, but it works on anything with an emotional component you want to fix. The first step belongs to the person. You can hand somebody the whole map. They still have to decide to walk."**

The record's central concern is speed. *Everything moves so fast that we're blinded by it. Our eyes are trained to decide before our brains get a chance to process the emotion underneath.*

ALONGSIDE THE MUSIC

Kramer is the author of ***Love Our Mother, Love The Children: Biophysics Economics & Spiritual Science*** (2026), which argues that the human body mirrors the Earth's systems and that the correspondence obliges us to treat the planet accordingly. He is also sole inventor of **Harmonic Path Logic**, a deterministic AI governance framework filed with the USPTO (application 19/574,339).

He describes both as **socially conscious initiatives to benefit all children and the Earth itself** — and as the same argument the music makes, in a different medium.

He relocates to Japan in 2026.

TRACKLIST — *VIRTUAL ISLAND*

1. Music I Need
2. Shitappa Life
3. Don't & Won't
4. Feet Forward
5. For the Kids *(ft. Yaw)*
6. Never Again
7. Sayonara
8. Tanoshii Sugoshi
9. Last Call
10. The Wall *(ft. A. Billi Free)*

All songs written by Christopher R. Kramer (BMI, IPI 00643227167).

LINKS

Hub — linktr.ee/sontensei

Bandcamp — tensei.bandcamp.com

Website — sontensei.com

Shitappa Life (stream) — tinyurl.com/shitappa

Sayonara (Spotify) — open.spotify.com/album/4rHYbZKZJDgeghcAwNpLsb

Tanoshii Sugoshi (Apple Music) — music.apple.com/us/album/tanoshii-sugoshi-single/6789274339

****PRESS ASSETS**** — Full lyrics (individual PDFs), bio, and photography available at sontensei.com

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