

Chill with music for Carmageddon

Jeffrey Lee Puckett

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Ken Elkinson has known his share of traffic jams. He lived in New York and Atlanta before moving to Los Angeles, so the pianist has experienced some of the most monumentally screwed-up traffic in North America.

So Elkinson, whose compositions lean toward the elegant and ambient, wrote an entire boxed set called "Music for Commuting." It's designed to bring calm into the lives of drivers prone to road rage, a group he joined long ago.

Elkinson started work on "Music for Commuting" after driving "in three of the worst traffic cities in America. It was also the fact that I am a super angry driver, and I needed something to keep me calm on the roads," he wrote in an email. "The tipping point was that I did not want to get my 4-year-old twins shot in some road rage incident."

Elkinson has decided to give his music away as a public service. Until midnight Monday, you can go to www.musicforcommuting.com and download six CDs worth of zen.

"The powers that be decided to shut down a ridiculously busy stretch of the I-405 Highway here in Los Angeles for construction for 53 straight hours starting on July 16," Elkinson wrote. "This free download is my gift to help fellow Angelinos cope with what is being referred to as Carmageddon. I then decided to spread the love to the entire world."

Elkinson, who has released nine other albums of instrumental piano music, also maintains www.kenelkinson.com.