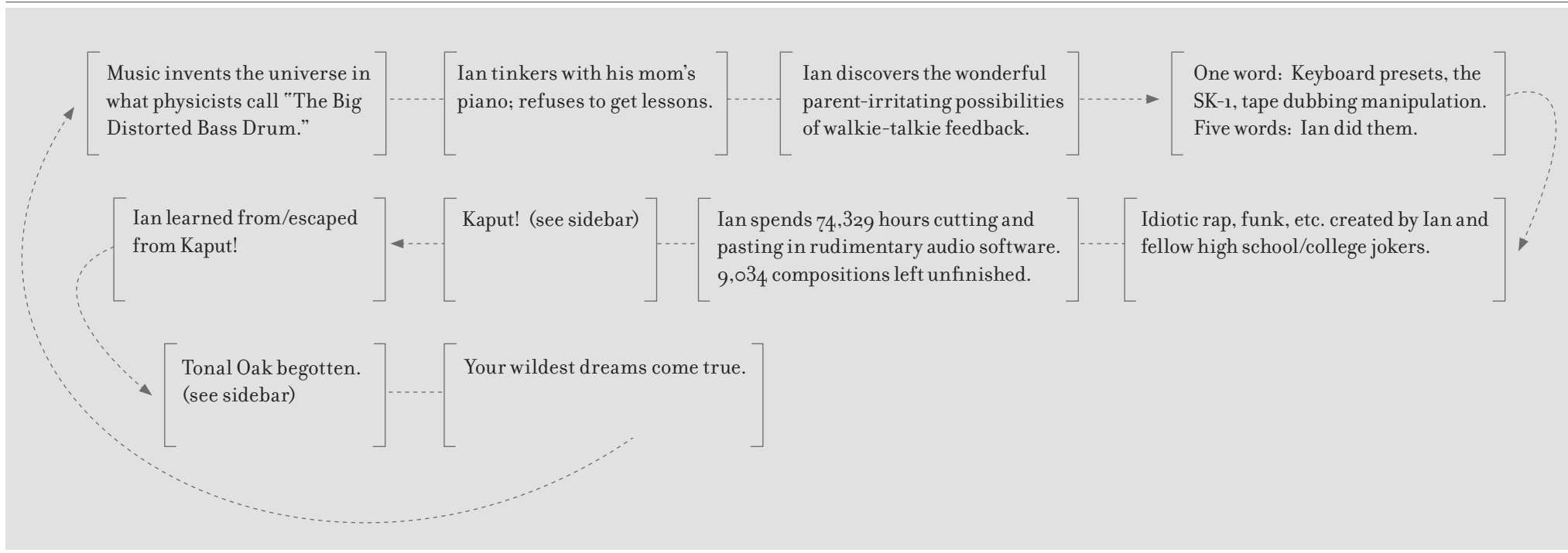


“This is one of the strangest albums I’ve heard all year—in a good way!” *Matthew Hart of The Russian Futurists*



Kaput!, a collaboration with Wayne State chum Zack Zuchowski, was Ian’s first concentrated (sort of) serious musical project. Zack’s metal guitar wizardry and song structuring abilities forced Ian to focus his digital noodlings and experiments. Together they created tongue-in-cheek, heavy metal- and jungle-inspired tracks—often with extraordinarily micromanaged beat edits (done in the most inefficient manner possible).

They were rewarded for their exhausting efforts with a spot on a **Digital Hardcore** compilation, as well as some love (and airplay) from **CBC Radio’s Brave New Waves Program**. **Kaput!**’s first album, *THE ADVENTURES OF*, was a technically compelling and irreverent work that nevertheless didn’t always succeed in execution. They also finished a second, similarly irreverent album of mostly covers (*KOVERED IN SANITY*) that is often regarded as more “listenable.”

Tonal Oak sees Ian taking what he learned from his trial by fire with **Kaput!** and applying it to a more personal, idiosyncratic (and decidedly less metal) musical vision. Always intending to create (and all along working on) a more produced electric art-pop album like *MAN TROUBLE*, Ian first detoured with a pair of more “ambient” and acoustic recordings: *THE OAKLE FOLK* EP and *THE BURNT DISTRICT* full-length. Ian’s touchstones for *MAN TROUBLE* included DIY, “one-man” bands like **The Russian Futurists**, **Max Tundra**, **Aphex Twin**, etc., as well as ostensibly non-one-man outfits like **My Bloody Valentine**, the **Beach Boys**, and the **Lilys** (as a few examples).

The result lies at the intersection of hyperbole and truth—a place where impossible harmonies lilt through the space cleared by a torrent of instruments, found sounds and improvised electronics.

If **Tonal Oak** is the brain, then *MAN TROUBLE* is certainly the heart. As Ian’s most personal work to date, *MAN TROUBLE* explores man’s relationship to the world around him. Themes of environmental sensitivity occur through “No Matter,” and “Wild Coke” while alienation, confusion and emotional failure dot the paths of “I Love This Picture,” “Bury Your Head” and “It Was Supposed to be a Vacation...”. But it’s not all doom-and-gloom, “In The Kitchen” and “I Wear Suits” laugh at the absurdity of a world monkey-wrenched by culture, politics and economics.

As theologians and scientists continue to argue the genesis of man’s origin, **Tonal Oak** interrupts with an 11-track report on man’s very existence—each song a thesis, each instrument a footnote. *MAN TROUBLE* is the research, the bibliography is right outside your window.