



“Mellin’s sound scores are layered, sophisticated — sometimes jarring and surprising, sometimes meditative and unrelenting — worlds I want to place amongst my dance. His computer generated sounds mysteriously reveal themselves into a swirling landscape, perfect for the choreography to unfold, to stray and settle in and, eventually, a place for the dance to live.”

— JODI MELNICK, CHOREOGRAPHER

JOEL MELLIN COMPOSITIONS FOR COMPUTER

VOLUME I

**Compositions for Computer:
Vol. 1**
by Joel Mellin

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN SOARES
INTRODUCTION BY HOLLY FAUROT &
SARAH H. PAULSON

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Can language be evolved from randomness? Do clouds have tempo? Can fire listen and respond to melody? Do you need a surf band to make surf music?

COMPOSER **JOEL MELLIN** explores questions like these. Since leaving his job as a NASA satellite engineer in the late 1990s, he’s been using computers to realize new musical ideas, going beyond the now commonplace electronic instruments of the last century. He creates innovative digital music systems using Genetic Algorithms and sonar based instrument controllers for real-time performance, taking computer music far beyond simple loop-making and recording. His compositions have been heard in performances from the **Feldman Gallery** in Soho to, most recently, the **Dublin Dance Festival** in Ireland.

“Computers can provide an abstract framework, completing tasks humans can’t do,” explains Mellin. “I find this liberating. I’m free to explore musical ideas that’d be impossible with traditional musicianship and written composition.”

COMPOSITION FOR COMPUTER: VOL. 1 is a multi-media collection of these compositions and the concepts behind them. The full-color book and companion CD is more like a chronicle of a dream than an academic tome. Pairing stream-of-conscious verbal abstracts with dreamlike images by award-winning photographer John Soares, it invites you into Mellin’s mind and guides you through wit and surreal melancholy.

COMPOSITION FOR COMPUTER: VOL. 1 also features an introduction by collaborating performance artists **Holly Faurot and Sarah H. Paulson**, humorous commentary by poet **Garrett Caples**, a complete discography of Mellin’s work and details of each original performance.



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KOLOURMEIM PRESS has always had an off-beat perspective on the relationship of art and poetry. When poet and critic Garrett Caples (who *Publisher’s Weekly* has said is part of a “generation of writers reinvigorating contemporary poetry”) started the press back in 1998, he set out to expose works by underground artists and under-known writers, often with an off-beat or musical bent. Our catalogue includes works by **William Diaper, John Hoffman, Christopher Nealon** and **Jeff Mellin**, as well works by Caples himself.