

FM Skyline Midiwave Quarterly



Fall 2023

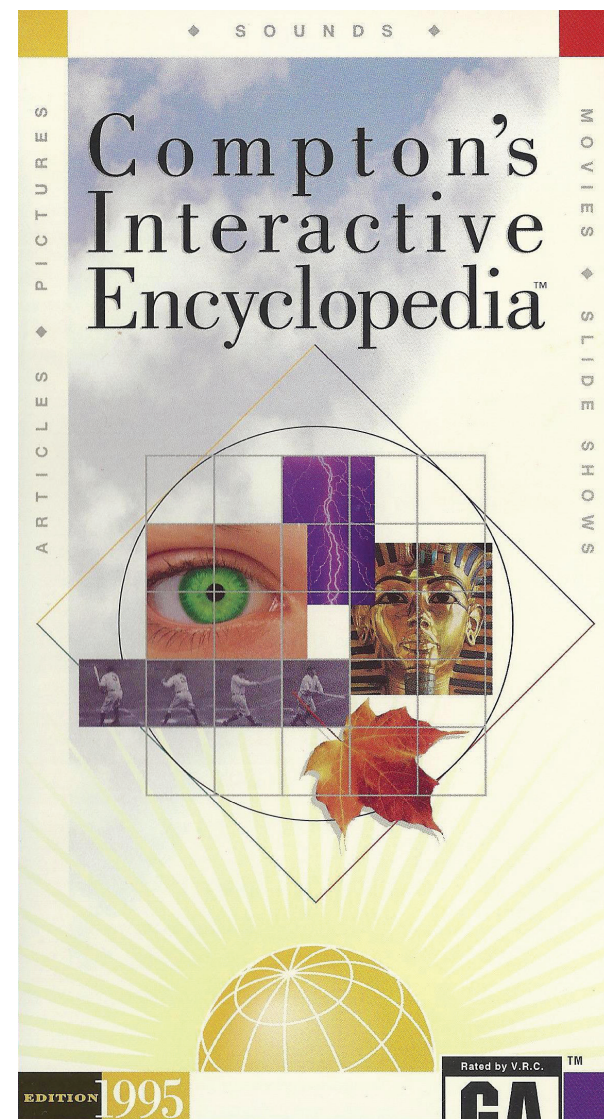
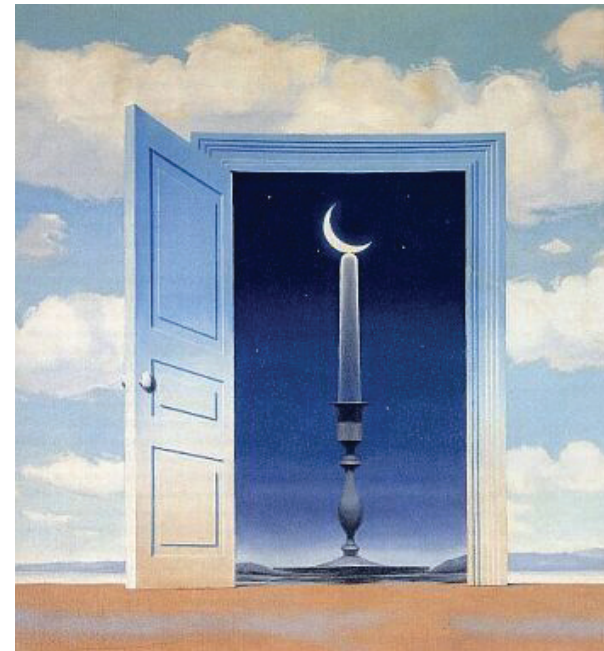
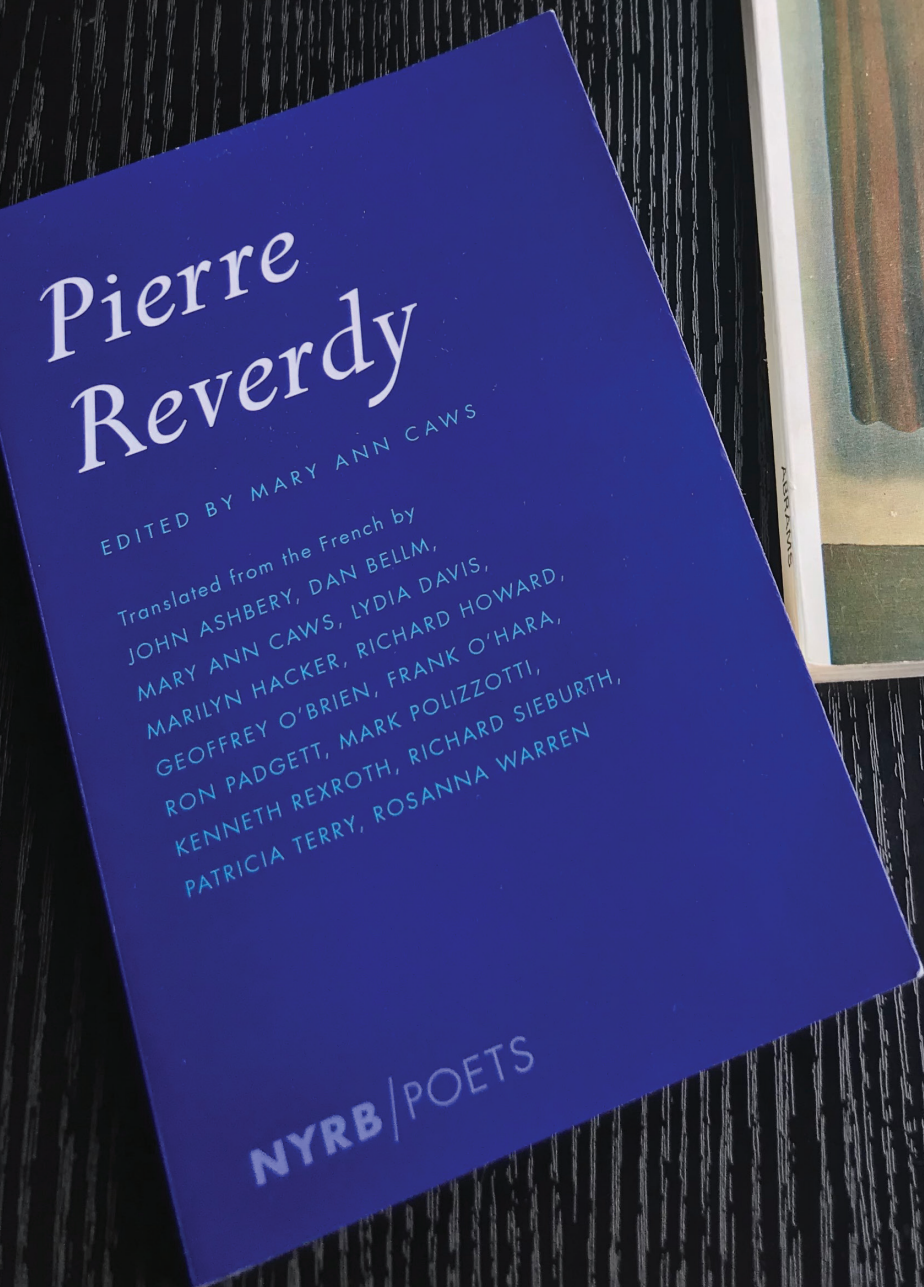


Welcome to The Office of FM Skyline Midiwave Industries Inc!

Fall 2023



The Present & Future...

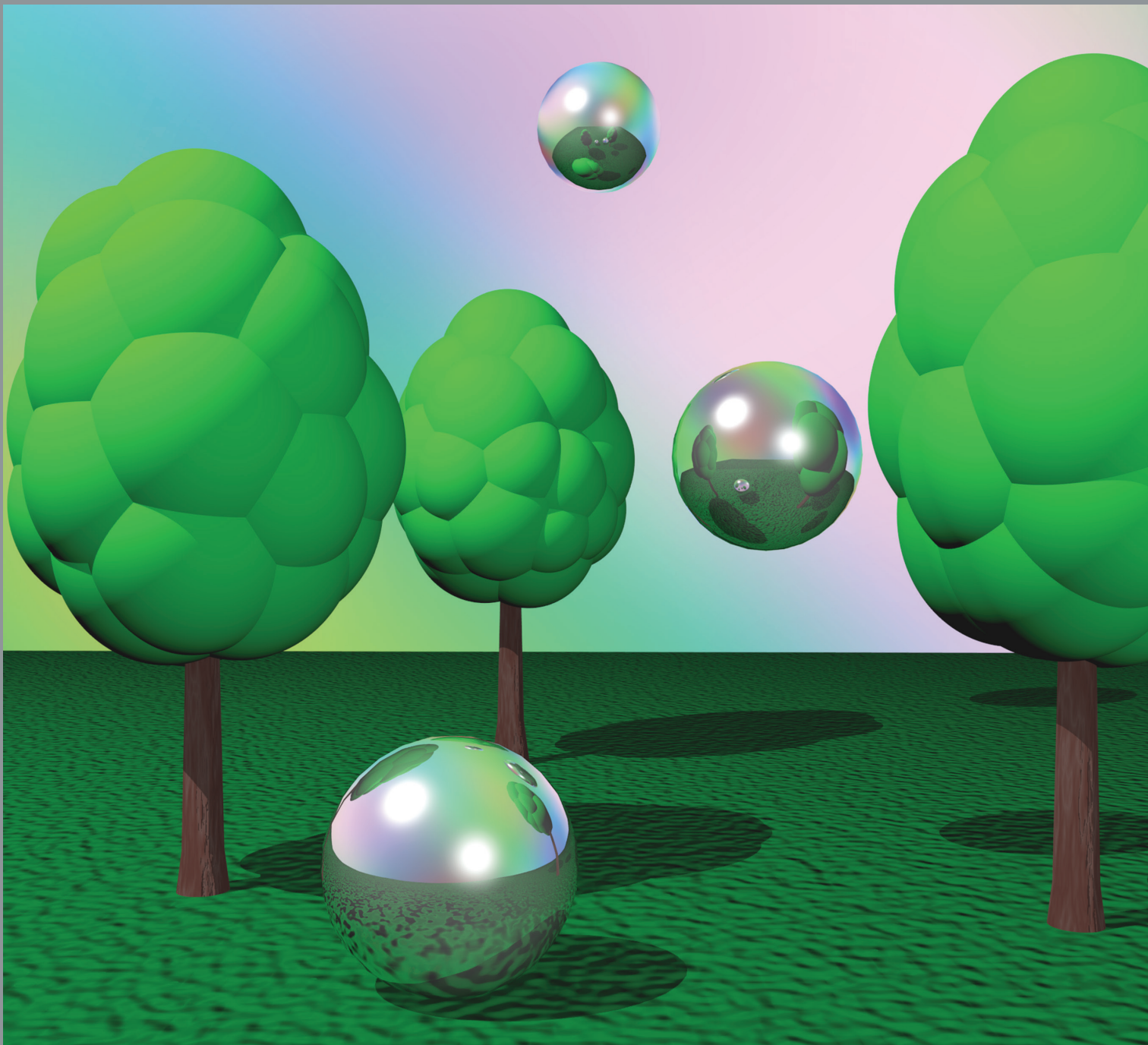


The new track this month is "Silence," which will be the closing track on the new album. It was inspired by the broad, relaxed, and expansive mood of the track "Don Juan" by Stavros Logarides from the album *Alchemy*. Over the course of several days I wrote a very long sequence of chords that feels like a description of a landscape, or of a vast building, or skyline. I let the chord progression speak for itself for most of the track, absorbing you into an abstract scenery, without the intrusion of a melody, to draw the listener into the subtle colors of the chords. A bright rhythmic figure comes in overhead like the stars, which hearkens to the first track of the album that you'll hear later. And then for the grand finale a distant saxophone enters the space, embellishing the the motion of the chords.

I'm very excited about the new album, its some of my most interesting composing to date, and some really heavy hitters. I've collected some very rich and powerful emotional moments from the time since I released *Illuminations*.

"The image is a pure creation of the mind. It cannot arise from a comparison but rather from the coming together of two realities more or less distanced from each other. The more distant and precise the relations between these two juxtaposed realities, the greater the strength of the image -the greater its emotional force and poetic actuality." -Pierre Reverdy

August



This is the radical re-writing of “Apres-Midi” that we heard as an introspective solo piano peice back in April. I did this as soon as I got back from Spain, along with Illuso. I wanted to use some of the same drums and percussion patterns that are in a few other tracks on the new album, which is a common technique I use for world-building on an album. The re-write happened pretty fast because as soon as I set up the drum and percussion pattern it dawned on my right away to try writing the chords from Apres-Midi into it.

The “B” section had been germinating since I left off with the earlier version of the tune, as I knew it would eventually need a sceond contrasting section, and I had many voice memos in my phone of various ideas for different chord changes. I use a fun trick I like to call “dove-tailing” where you subtly change one of the chords somewhere towards the end of the pattern so that you can make a sort of seamless exit in a different direction than the original pattern, into some different new chords. I use this technique one more time at the very end, so that each of the three times the pattern happens there is a different ending.

July

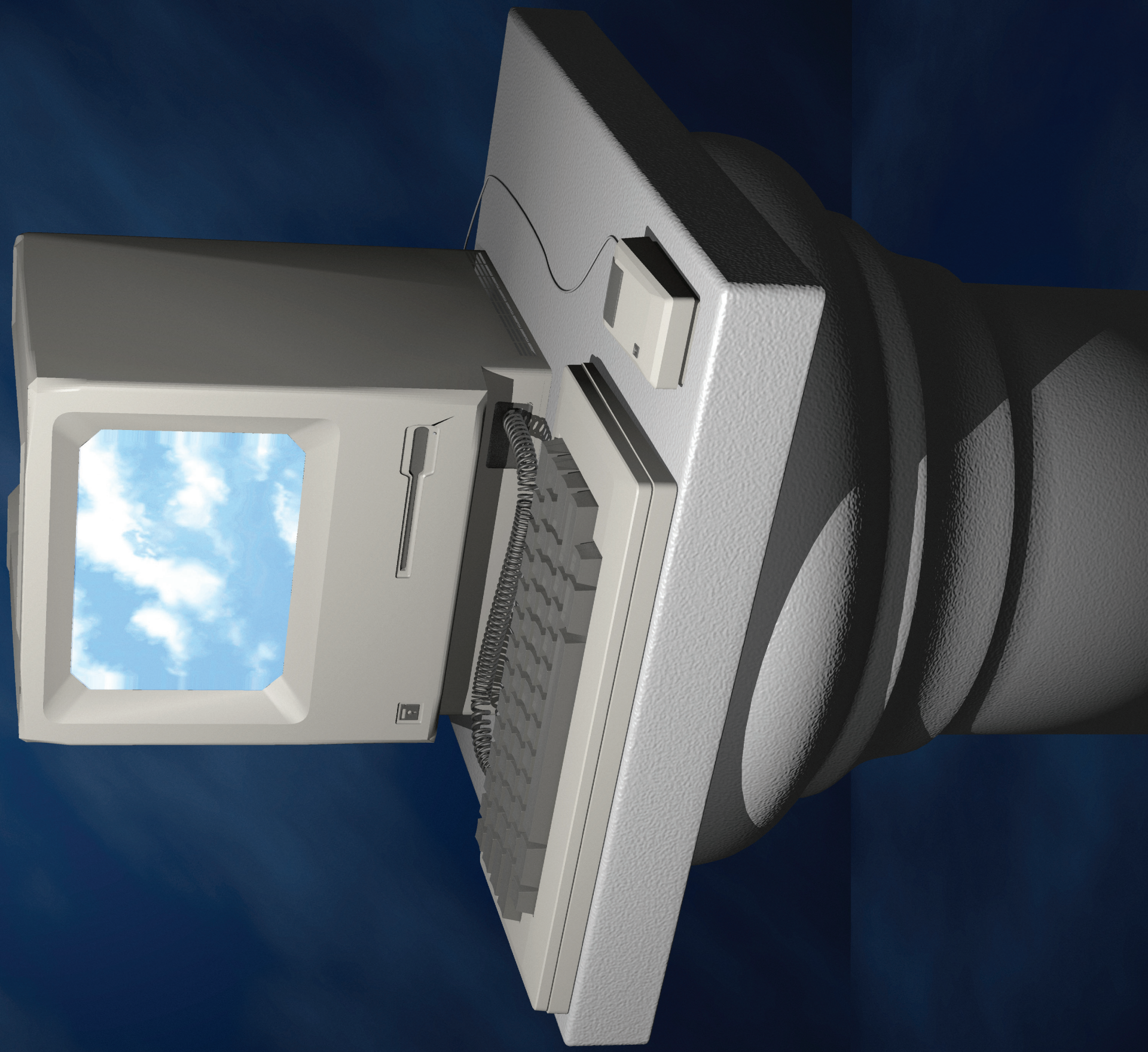


“Illuso” is another tune I finsiherd right after I got back from Spain, it came together pretty quickly off a simple idea of building up a track from a similar drum and percussion pattern as one of the others that were already finished for the album. It’s a bit similar in spirit to “glass beaches” from *liteware*.

The pad you hear right at the beginning is actually a Final Fantasy VII string sample that I used with some processing. A couple of very familiar sounds make an entrace, including my classic slap bass sound I’ve been using since EarthSim, and the DX7 piano I’ve used all the way since *DeLuxe*. There’s a chime sound later on that I’ve been wanting to use for a while, tracked it down from a Prefab Sprout song called “Wild Horses.”

The main chord progression is deceptively simple, a sequence that takes advantage of a very subtle modal color change.

espoir



ELECTRONICON 2023







Wish I had more pictures with y'all!
Next time!

