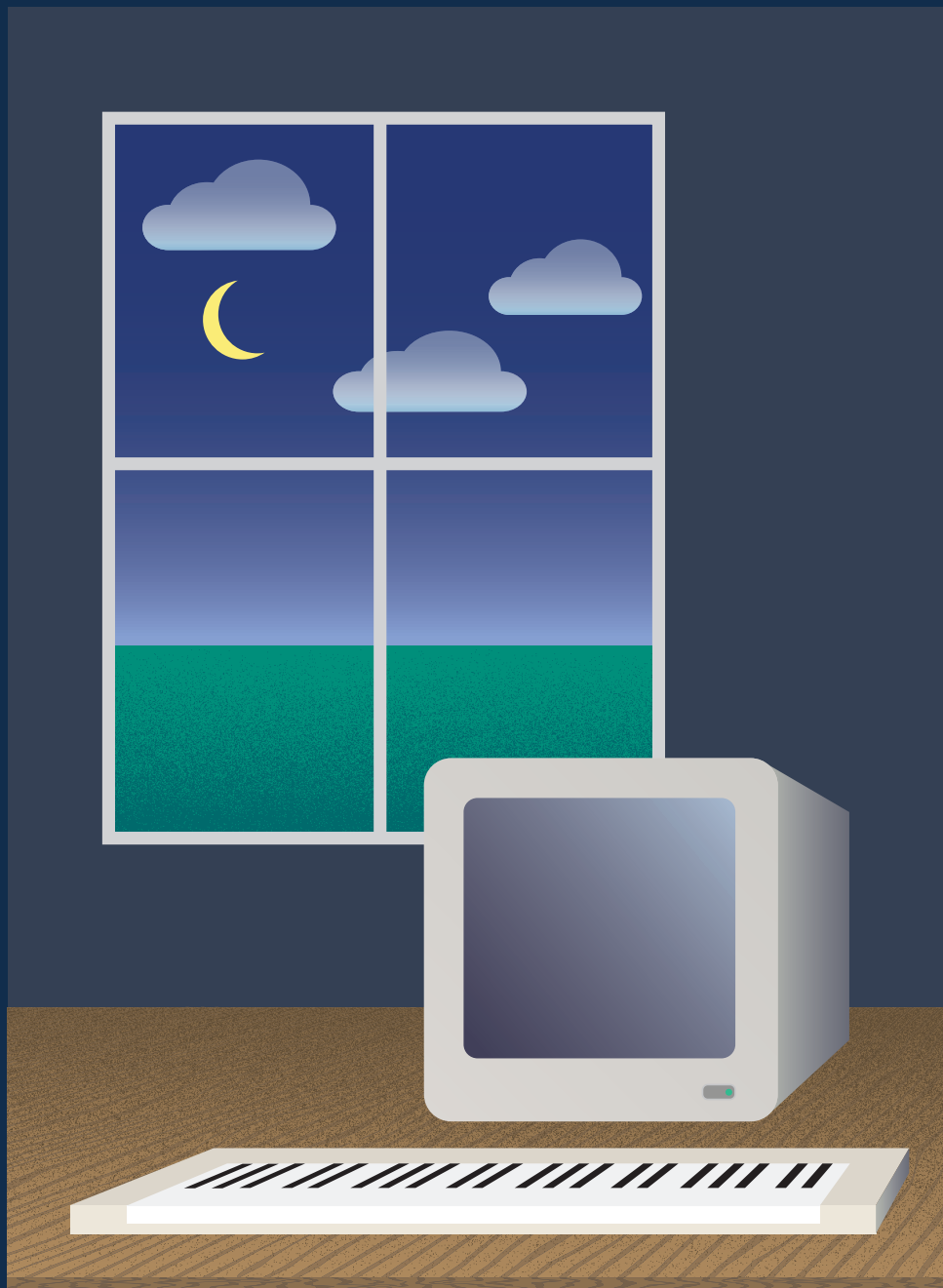


FM Skyline
Midiwave Quarterly



Winter 2024-2025

*Welcome to
The Office of FM Skyline
Midiwave Industries Inc.*



Winter 2024-2025



December

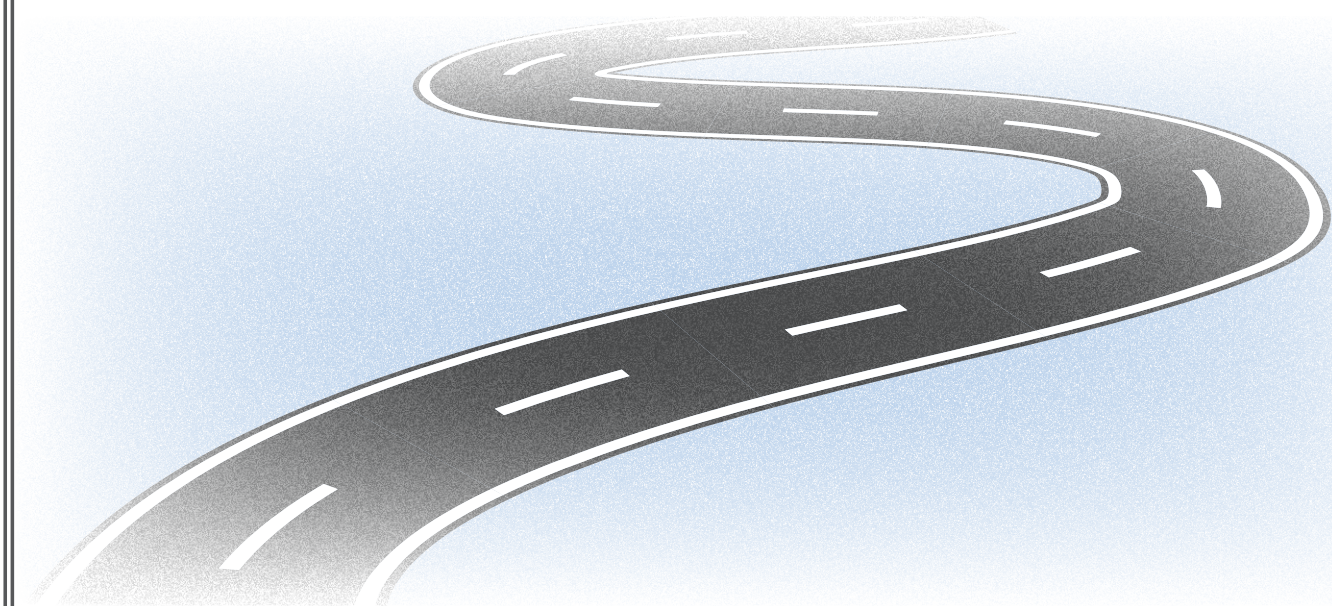
At the time of this writing I am not certain what new music will be included for December to round out the Quarterly, I want to get the magazine done early because the printers have been running slower lately and it's also holiday season (hoping to get these on Santa's sleigh), but I think it may be one more of the "Blue" tracks or perhaps a little house tune from last year that I found the other day.

This fall I was engaged in work on a series of tunes I'm calling my "Blue" tunes, an introspective exploration of the color blue from a metaphorical standpoint emotionally and tonally. I used an MPC1000 to capture keyboard performances to MIDI, then played the sequences back through my synth and recorded them straight to cassette.

While some or all of these "Blue" tunes could probably be flipped and made into full arrangements (the way I did with *Après-midi*), I do love them the way they are, I think it's really unique music, and perhaps I may finish up some more of them and round out a whole album's worth. But maybe not! It's best not to burden creativity with too many promises :)

Thank you for taking this journey with me through these "Blue" tunes, I realize it isn't quite the FM Skyline you are used to but it's always very important to be true to myself creatively and I just needed to work through those moods and ideas.

Beyond that it's been a good year, we had *Images* come out, and I'm looking forward to more music that's coming out in early 2025 :)





October

Blue #1 (Darn That Dream) - One my favorite jazz standards from when I first became interested in jazz right after high school. An ingenious dreamy composition with a mesmerizing nostalgic quality. I found it very calming to have this looping on my sequencer in my apartment, and I've captured that trance-like quality by looping it here and passing it deep into the background with reverb, and then back again, like drifting off into a daydream.

Blue #2 - the cryptic first section owes a little to the John Coltrane tune "Giant Steps," and engages in a back and forth dance with the idyllic second section.

Blue #3 - This is one of my personal favorite compositions. Musically, it's related to my tune "Circles," and it crystallizes deep wandering feelings of introspection, melancholy, and rumination. I found a cool surprise at the end, reprising the main part "upside-down" and then mysteriously turning it around again.



November

Blue #4 - this one is similar to #2 in exploring a tension between a cryptic and questioning first section, and a more idyllic and hopeful second section. The second section owes a lot to Prelude #2 from the Well-Tempered Clavier by J.S. Bach. That second section gets developed the second time around and takes a little journey towards a climax before finding it's way back to the main section again, which leaves us with the question unanswered, although a trace of the 'answer' is hidden within it.

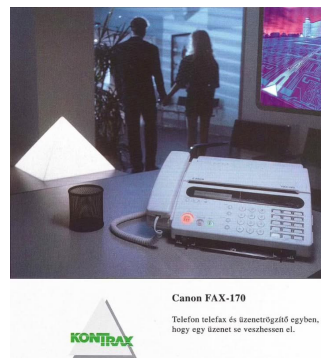
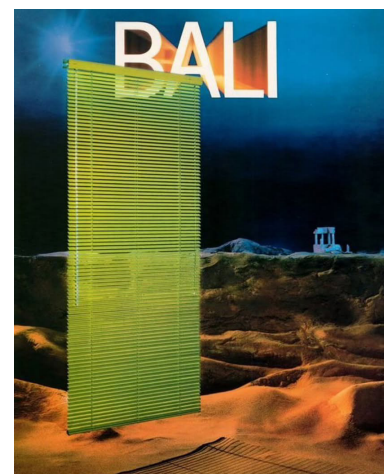
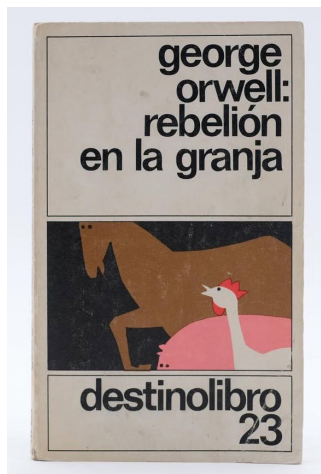
Blue #5 - Similar to #3 in also exploring a musical idea from "Circles," this one is quite the little journey, and uses a classical "rondo" form which just means it has two different contrasting sections that the main part weaves around. The first contrasting section is tender and nostalgic, a sense of winter holiday serenity is there, and the second one is a manic rush forward that eventually climaxes and drops us back into the main section, first passing through a place of pensive false return, until we eventually find our way into the real main room again, which fades to it's conclusion piece by peice.

esim



Some items from the

Mood Board



Roses, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 18"
based on digital painting from Fall Quarterly

What is Midi- wave?

I thought it might be fun to finally make a first attempt here at a very brief manifesto about what I've been doing with FM Skyline, and get into detail a little bit about my personal ideas and philosophies about the type of music I'm interested in making. It is of course somewhat tongue in cheek, as taking on an academic tone for this is pretty ridiculous. It will also in no way be a complete discussion, nor will it be a set of hard rules. Really, it's just for fun :)

In Regard to Genre

Midiwave is a subgenre of Electronica or Electronic/Dance music that is descended from Vaporwave. The key difference is that while Vaporwave is primarily a sample-based genre, Midiwave is primarily focused on newly composed or programmed (to use a term more closely associated with MIDI) music, while continuing to use many of the concepts and ideas and themes associated with Vaporwave.

The main ideas being continued from Vaporwave are recontextualization and curation. I've always interpreted the "Vapor" part to mean something that was promised but never actualized. Vaporwave finds things that seem to be at the periphery of memory, curated together based on some common aesthetic themes that "rhyme" or fit together, sometimes to create a new world that was only suggested before, or to just have more of something that barely had a first pass. And the way I interpret the "-wave" part is that modern production techniques and ideas about presenting and arranging music are used, so that the end result is something new and surreal. The "-wave" part suggests that everything is there for the sake of itself, we are meant to become entranced by all of the elements present. I see "-wave" as a little bit descended from Shoegaze in that way, an attitude towards being washed in sound.

Whereas Vaporwave does this recontextualization by manipulating sampled music and re-purposing found visuals, Midiwave does it by borrowing and incorporating various stylistic and aesthetic elements into a newly created whole.

In Regard to Style

The "MIDI" in Midiwave gives a lot of the information about style: that it's computer-programmed, and that it uses a lot of a certain type of sound we associate with computers, video games, 90's/early 00's synthesizers in pop, dance, and elsewhere, etc.

Midiwave is often intended to give a similar effect to musical moments found in Vaporwave, where you are launched into strange moments of intensity and detail, and then repetition and subtle variation draw you into trance-like states. In this way Midiwave is more like Vaporwave or even dance music than it is like the actual source materials that are sampled in Vaporwave and which are being used for sound and style references in Midiwave.

Although it tends to be more dance-like, groovy, and melodic, it is also connected to certain lineages of "outsider" electronic music - video game music, library music, hold music, New Age, etc, and as such it's totally free to sometimes do other more meditative, abstract, or purely evocative things.

In the end it's all about creating a feeling and a world, creating a new music with something old but more recent than guitars etc. I see it as taking sounds of my generation, a more recent history, and giving it new life and legitimacy, proving how fun and deep and emotional and rich these unlikely plastic sounds can be, how much they can inspire the imagination.

