

**Conceiving Music Today:  
Manifold Compositions, DISSCO and Beyond**

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Abstract: - Manifold compositions consist of all actual and potential variants of a work that contains elements of indeterminacy and is generated by a computer reading the same data for each variant. The relationship between manifolds and classes of composition is discussed and a tool (DISSCO) unifying composition and sound synthesis is presented. Deterministic and random processes facilitate by DISSCO are shown to correspond to an implicit worldview and the role of the computer is defined as that of a collaborator complementing the skills of the human composer. It is also shown how musical compositions can be described as complex dynamic systems and two related projects are proposed: a sound "fountain", an ever changing stream of sounds, and a "brewing" piece continuously re-arranging its parts in search of an elusive optimal solution.