

NEW FOCUS RECORDINGS

David Bird's compositions explore the impact of technology on our world, both musical and beyond, both from the past and into the future. Featuring performances by **lovemusic**, bassoonist **Ben Roidl-Ward**, cellist **Isidora Nojkovic**, **Grossman Ensemble**, and **Mivos Quartet**, Bird delivers once again with music that challenges, conjures a fantastical sci-fi-esque sonic environment, and interrogates the human experience in a shifting era.

Track List

1. Hinterlands	13:38
lovemusic: Emiliano Gavito, flute; Adam Starkie, clarinet; Sophie Wahlmüller, viola; Christian Lozano Sedano, electric guitar; Finbar Hosie, electronics	
2. Ambient Machine	6:23
Ben Roidl-Ward, bassoon; Isidora Nojkovic, cello	
3. Chroma	9:51
Grossman Ensemble; Jeffrey Meyer, conductor	
American City	
4. I. Magnetic Mountain	3:01
5. II. Behind The Urals	3:44
6. III. The First Trees Were All Metal	6:23
Mivos Quartet	

Total Time: 43:00

Program Notes

Hinterlands is an intermission between the past and future of technology; yet, we are unable to be present, too spent on excavating the lingering effects of industrial modernity. David Bird's thrilling compositions are performed here by premiere contemporary ensembles lovemusic, Ben Roidl-Ward and Isidora Nojkovic, Grossman Ensemble and Mivos Quartet.

Shifting between microtonal shimmer, dense counterpoint, and immersive electronic textures, the album treats sound like a form of "sonic metallurgy": metallic resonances, harmonic artifacts, and layered noise evoke processes of extraction, production, and decay. The album unearths geographic, psychological, and technological disruption, the sounds of machines working with and against each other in entropy. Like the emerging co-existences between humans and artificial intelligence, David Bird and collaborators articulate the subtle yet severe realities of technological change. Inspired by sources ranging from William Gibson's speculative fiction to the industrial histories of American and Soviet cities and the rise of white-noise machines, the album reflects on systems of control and alienation through immersive listening.

David Bird: Hinterlands

New music exploring the impact of technology by composer David Bird

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Featured Track	Track 1

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Each work on the album approaches these tensions from a distinct vantage point. The opening track, ***Hinterlands***, performed by lovemusic, explores a space that is both geographic and psychological, drawing on William Gibson's story of travelers returning from deep space to shape its speculative sonic terrain. ***Ambient Machine***, performed by Ben Roidl-Ward and Isidora Nojkovic, turns to the present, juxtaposing dense multiphonic and overpressure textures with resonant harmonic tones to reflect the hum of technology and the paradox of noise as comfort. ***Chroma***, performed by the Grossman Ensemble, treats timbre as material, unfolding from unisons into increasingly rich, overtone-based sonorities. ***American City***, performed by Mivos Quartet, translates the history of industrial labor into mechanized textures, inspired by the Soviet–American collaboration behind Magnitogorsk. Together, these works form a collection that reflects on the sonic and psychological consequences of the technological age.

Bio

David Bird is a composer, producer, and multimedia artist praised for his “inventive, mind-expanding electroacoustic soundscapes” (AnEarful). His work explores the dramatic potential of electroacoustic and multimedia environments, often highlighting the relationship between technology and the individual. Bird's compositions have been performed at venues such as Walt Disney Concert Hall, Chicago's Pritzker Pavilion, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, as well as at festivals including Donaueschinger Musiktage, Gaudeamus Festival, Wien Modern, and Festival Mixtur. He has collaborated with ensembles including JACK Quartet, Yarn/Wire, Talea Ensemble, Ensemble Dal Niente, International Contemporary Ensemble, Mantra Percussion, Mivos Quartet, and Bozzini Quartet. His work appears on labels such as Oxtail Recordings, New Focus Recordings, Carrier Records, and TAK Editions, and has received praise from outlets including The New York Times, The Wire, Textura, and Bandcamp Daily.

Bird is a founding member of the New York-based chamber ensemble TAK, regarded as “one of the most prominent ensembles in the United States practicing truly experimental music” (I Care If You Listen). He also collaborates with Qubit, a non-profit group that curates and produces experimental music events in New York City. He is the recipient of a 2021 Fromm Music Foundation Commission from Harvard University, the 2021 Cultural Foundation Schloss Wiepersdorf Fellowship, a 2018 Austrian Federal Chancellery / KulturKontakt Austria Artist Residency, the Festival Mixtur 26/27 Commission, the 2018 Giga-Hertz Award

(Honorable Mention), the 2025 PRIX CIME Electroacoustic Music Competition (Honorable Mention), and the 2016 Gaudeamus Award (Nominee).

In 2024, Bird joined the University of Notre Dame as an Assistant Professor of Music Technology and Digital Media. Previously, he has taught courses in composition and computer music at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Hamilton College, and the Stevens Institute of Technology.