

# FM Skyline Midiwave Quarterly



Winter 2023



# Welcome to The Office of FM Skyline Midiwave Industries Inc!

Winter 2023



# The Present & Future...



# 2023

has been a big year behind the scenes here at FM Skyline Midwave Industries! We are celebrating our first full year of this subscription and zine. Big thank you to everyone who has been along for ride since the beginning, and to everyone else for their support at any measure.

It's been a blast putting these magazines together and I'm looking forward to refining and riffing on the idea as time goes on. Planning on doing a whole redesign for 2024.

The subscription has also been a huge success for me personally as an experiment to use it as a way to keep a steady stream of work going in an organized fashion. It has turned out to be an extremely productive year :)

It's also been a big year for landmarks in FM Skyline lore:

- "Harlequin" was heard nationally on NPR's *Morning Edition* in January. It may have been played many other times for all I know, I only found out about this because a friend happened to be listening at the time
- Played in Spain with my colleagues at Primavera Sound
- Thanked in the acknowledgements of a printed work of fiction: *Troll* by Logan Mc-Nair
- FM Skyline hat seen on national television in an episode of *Kitchen Nightmares*

Another big thing that happened this year behind the scenes was the completion of two albums: my next big album, which will be announced soon in early 2024, and "Music 2," the collaborative album between myself and my dear friend & labelmate Equip.

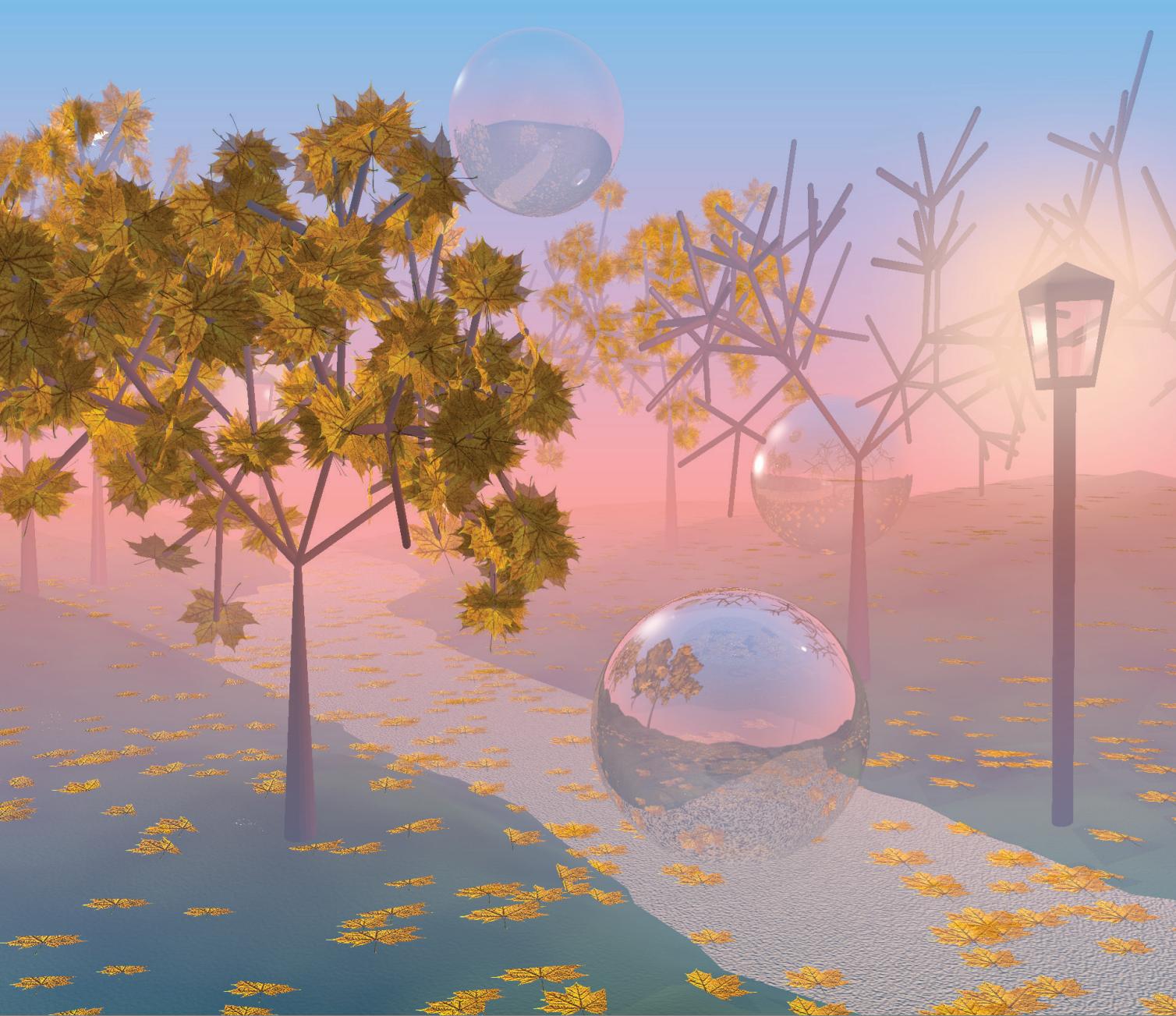
Apologies for being so secretive about the new album besides the tracks I've shared with you already, it's just a matter of respect and care I have for the album as a work of art: I don't want to celebrate it prematurely, and I want the whole of the album to be "born" for everyone all at the same time the same way.

I'm extremely excited about the new album, it's my best work yet on all fronts. There's nothing lofty or intellectual about it, it's really just a collection of my most ecstatic and emotional moments from the last two years, bound together very carefully by musical, sonic, and aesthetic themes. And more importantly it's just me showing what I love and find exciting about music.

Besides those two albums coming, I'm really excited to keep working on this zine and subscription with you all, I've accumulated a lot of new ideas and inspirations from this year.



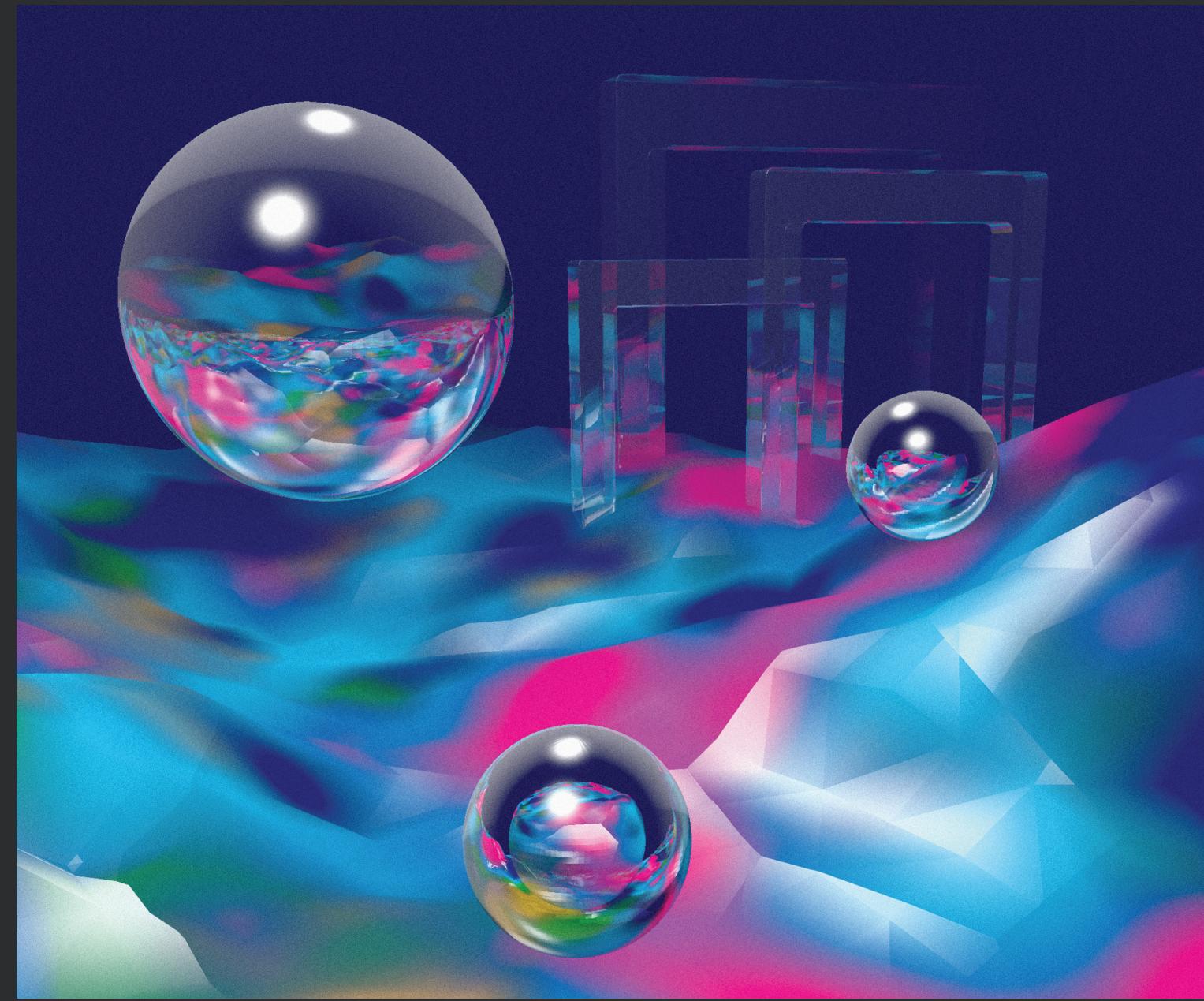
# November



"Rigel" is a new one I finished right after going back to revise "The Streets" into "Angosia." I've been in love with the Korg Wavestation patch that appears in the first melody, which I also used in "Angosia." It's a patch that I tracked down from a track by The Whispers called "My Heart Your Heart," and I believe it's the same patch as used in a slightly edited version in the Jan Hammer track "Sunset." I had fun with the chord progression, I'm using some voicings and chord movements that are characteristic of a lot of my more recent tunes, hard to explain shortly but it has a lot to do with avoiding certain cliches. The tune also features a really fun Korg trumpet solo, another of my favorite instruments lately. I was thinking about Freddie Hubbard when I wrote the trumpet solo.

"Angosia" was heard last spring in the form of the track "The Streets," I finally went back and added what it needed which was a strong melodic statement, which I did with the Korg patch from Rigel, and some little finishing touches here and there. The main synth patch you hear at the beginning is also one that I've heard in a few Prefab Sprout tracks. This one, along with "Rigel," "La Gitare," possibly "Tropic-Sim," "Catacomb," and a couple other demos are the bedrock of another new album, something a little more quirky and whimsical.

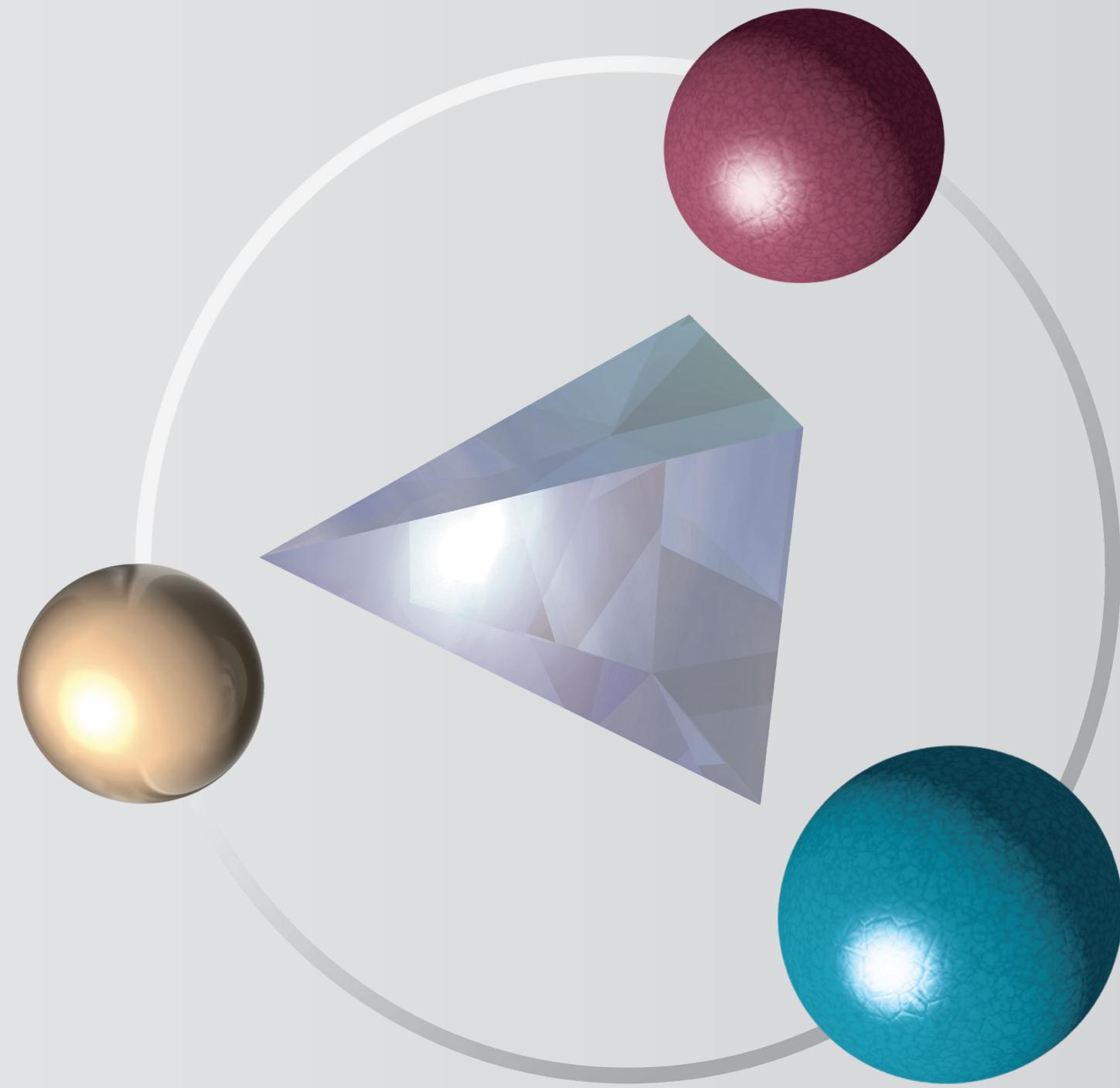
# October



"Mirage" was a demo from the beginnings of Illuminations. It started with me copying the drum beat from "My Boo" by Ghost Town DJs into the Roland R5 drum machine I was using at the time, plus the main chord pattern I wrote on top that, which uses one of my favorite patches on my Yamaha SY55, which is also heard on "Veil," "Veranda," and "Fresnel." Eventually I wound up taking the B section from another demo, from the incomplete "EarthSim 2: Homeworld." I'm not sure what's going to happen with this tune, it doesn't fit into anything I'm trying to curate right now, I might wind up just releasing it as a standalone single in between albums. But it bangs and is pretty cool.

Also in October was some more of my favorite Bach pieces that I learned years ago when I was teaching myself piano, Prelude & Fugue #16 in G minor from Book 1 of the Well-Tempered Clavier. For the Prelude I added a timpani part following the bass line, which gives it a regal quality, maybe a funeral march for a king, something like that. For the Fugue I went ham and added a drum beat and shaker which was a lot of fun. The two pieces together feel like a nod to Wendy Carlos' *Switched On Bach*.

time



Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

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