

Board and Advisors

The people behind of BEAM are world-renowned innovators, organizers, entrepreneurs, composers and musicians. A common devotion to “What’s next?” binds them to their work.



Max Mathews started it all. Working at Bell Labs in 1962 he helped teach the first computers to sing (memorialized by HAL singing “Daisy” in 2001 a Space Odyssey) using his program Music V. He is currently Professor of Music Research at Stanford University and continues to pioneer in human machine interfaces and new musical instruments.



Jaron Lanier is best known for his pioneering work in the field he named “Virtual Reality”. In the early 1980s he founded VPL Research, the first company to sell VR products. He co-developed the first implementations of virtual reality in surgical simulation, vehicle interior prototyping and virtual sets for television production. He has the world’s largest private collection of musical instruments and is a noted composer, musician, author and artist.



David Wessel is Professor of Music at the UC Berkeley where he is Director of CNMAT (Center for New Music and Audio Technology). In 1985 he established a new department under Pierre Boulez devoted to the development of interactive music software for personal computers. David founded the International Computer Music Conference (ICMC) and is a highly regarded performer and composer.



Don Buchla is widely regarded as one of the major pioneers in electronic musical instruments; Don constructed the first voltage-controlled synthesizer in 1964. Since then, he has produced a variety of conceptually and technically advanced instruments, many of which are in use in university and private studios around the world. He recently received the prestigious 2002 SEAMUS Lifetime Achievement Award "in recognition of his pioneering achievements and lifetime contribution to the art and craft of electro-acoustic music".



Tom Oberheim has been developing electronic products for musicians for over 35 years. He invented a number of innovative electronic music products, including: the first polyphonic music synthesizer, the first phase shifter and ring modulator for the performing musician, the first completely programmable music synthesizer, and the first electronic music system that incorporated a synchronized music synthesizer, digital sequencer and digital drum machine.



Dave Smith founded Sequential Circuits, the premier manufacturer of professional music synthesizers, in the mid-70s. In 1977, he designed the Prophet-5, the world's first microprocessor-based musical instrument. Dave is also generally known as the driving force behind the generation of the MIDI specification in 1981—in fact, he coined the acronym. In 1987 he was named a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) for his continuing work in the area of music synthesis.



Paul Dresher is an internationally active composer noted for his ability to integrate diverse musical influences into his own coherent and unique personal style. He is pursuing many forms of musical expression including experimental opera and music theater, chamber and orchestral composition, live instrumental electro-acoustic chamber music performances, musical instrument invention and scores for theater, dance, and film.



Jay Cloidt is a composer and sound designer who studied at the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College with Robert Ashley and David Behrman. As a composer, he has collaborated with many groups, beginning with the late Ed Mock's group and including the Paul Dresher Ensemble, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, ODC/San Francisco, California EAR Unit and Kronos Quartet. The San Francisco Chronicle has dubbed Cloidt "The Spike Jones of the Bay Area new music scene."



John M. Chowning studied music composition at Wittenberg University followed by three years of study in Paris with Nadia Boulanger. His graduate research at Stanford led to the first generalized sound localization algorithm implemented in a quad format. Chowning discovered an algorithm for generating complex time-varying sounds using frequency modulation (FM). He was founding director of the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA), which is one of the leading centers for computer music and related research.



Mark Russo is a seasoned marketing communications professional, with over 20 years experience in public relations, advertising and marketing. His career spans working with pr and advertising agencies, and in-house marketing counsel for the likes of Oracle Corporation and other tech companies. He opened and operated a highly successful integrated marketing agency in San Francisco, ProductCom, with a roster of blue chip clients and nationally known brands.