

**Chris Yavelow**  
Literary Bio —2009— *ChrisYavelow.com*

**Chris Yavelow** is an award-winning author who has worked in every aspect of the book business, from typesetting to layout and design, from being an editor, publisher, and agent to developing software for writers. He received graduate degrees from Boston University and Harvard, spent three years studying at Tyndale Seminary, and he has taught at Harvard, the Paris-American Academy, the University of Texas, Schiller University, and Claremont Graduate University.

Yavelow's professional involvement with books began in the 1960s with a summer job setting metal type for printing presses. He had to memorize the "upper case" and "lower case" for letterforms stored in wooden cases. The experience led to his first published book, a limited-edition graphic novel entitled *Green* (1971). Eight years later, he self-published *Harmonization*, a music theory text about the teachings and pedagogical approach of Nadia Boulanger.

By the early 1980s, he had become an expert on phototypesetting using A/M CompSet and Varitypers, machines that required a good deal of imagination because WYSIWYG had yet to be invented (WYSIWYG = What You See Is What You Get). While using A/M machines to typeset "the complicated parts" of an entire encyclopedia, he spent his spare time on Harvard's mainframe typesetting his 100,000-word opera libretto, *The Passion of Vincent Van Gogh*, a commission from the National Endowment for the Arts with support from the Camargo Foundation in France.

With the 1984 release of the Macintosh, WYSIWYG became available, and Yavelow created his next opera libretto, *The Rogue*, using MacWrite while in residence at the Cummington Community of the Arts. By 1987, he had programmed a system to automate the formatting of text for his libretto to the first computer-assisted opera, *Countdown*, a commission from the Boston Lyric Opera under the auspices of the National Institute of Music Theater.

The dawning of the age of personal computers proved fruitful ground for Yavelow in other writing genres, too. From 1984 through 1994, he was a contributing editor to *Macworld*, *Electronic Musician*, *Byte*, *Computer Music Journal*, *Macintouch*, *Macromedia Journal*, *MacWeek*, *Verbum*, and *New Media Magazine*. During this time, he also wrote documentation for Kurzweil Music Systems, including writing the 500-page manual for the company's revolutionary flagship product, the *Kurzweil-250*, under the supervision of Robert Moog.

In 1993, IDG published Yavelow's first mainstream book, *The Macworld Music and Sound Bible* (1400-pages—their first "Bible" book). It received the prestigious Computer Press Association award in 1993 and was among *Mix Bookshelf's* "Top Twenty Titles," as well as a book club "Main Selection," and it was subsequently translated into Japanese, an edition of 30,000 that sold out in two weeks. A number of other books followed: *Multimedia PowerTools* (Bantam), *Mastering the World of QuickTime* (Random House), as well as major contributions to books such as *Macintosh Virtual Playhouse* (Hayden), *Making Music with Your Computer* (Mix Books), and *The Music Machine* (MIT Press).

Yavelow was the series editor of A-R Editions' renowned *Computer Music and Digital Audio* book series from 1995 thru 1999. During this time, besides editing all new and soon-to-be released books, he worked as an authors' advocate by renegotiating all the author contracts to resemble the contract he had created for his *Music and Sound Bible*, a contract that had been subsequently adopted by IDG as their boiler-plate author contract.

Since the turn of the century, he has been developing an unprecedented software tool for authors, now available at <http://FictionFixer.com>. The program tracks and analyzes more than 250 characteristics of current bestselling novels. Technically an "expert system," the software then combines this data with a consensus of expert advice to define a model representing what the public expects from such bestsellers. **FictionFixer** matches every corresponding aspect of an author's manuscript to the current model, a specific work, or both. Besides being a tool for authors, **FictionFixer** received much media attention when it was used forensically as an expert system to detect the authorship of several important documents pertaining to the 2008 presidential election.

Chris Yavelow has always been fascinated with Print-On-Demand. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, he was on the advisory boards of the first sheet music P.O.D kiosk companies. In 2007, he launched **YAV Publications**, an author-friendly P.O.D. publishing company with extraordinarily high standards. YAV Publications consists of four imprints: **YAV Books** (Christian books), **Celestine-Opus** (books about music), **Books From Trees** (books in other categories, edited by YAV), and **Book House Press** (other books, not edited by YAV). In that same year, writing under the anagramous pseudonym Chris Loveway, he published his first novel, *Tree of Life*.

A frequent public speaker, his lectures have ranged from delivering the keynote speech at the "First Conference on Computers in Music Education," to addressing the "G7 Information Superhighway Conference" about multimedia ergonomics. In 1999, he was honored to deliver an Erasmus Prize Lecture at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam—a presentation on the future of music, now that computers can generate credible works in any style.