

Michael Harrison's Revelation: Music in Pure Intonation. A protégé of old school piano deconstructor La Monte Young, Michael Harrison uses what is known as Just Intonation to give his piano playing that extra little kick. Imagine you are falling off a skyscraper, or being pulled deep to the ocean floor by an unseen force. Bottom is top and top is bottom, the earth is pulled out from under you and all that is left is your imagination, and that damning, beautiful piano dripping colors through the space. The 12 pieces of Revelation: Music in Pure Intonation sound simple enough on first listen, but as the pieces build, refract and climb, your mind is pulled along with the flow, like an irresistible force drawing an inanimate object. You want to stop, get away and go back to your own head space, but the music won't let you. Harrison sounds at times like he is playing an out of tune upright piano, his two handed technique upsetting the usual ways we "hear" the instrument. But soon enough, as the harmonies overlap and the rhythms jumble and fuse, your mind surrenders to Harrison's peculiar beauty/madness. This is sonic music akin to flying over a pristine lake with no plane, skydiving without landing, or being taken up in the air with the saints.

New Age piano for punk rockers and Yoko Ono phobes? Go ahead. Jump in the deep end of "Tone Cloud II."

Ken Micallef in Better Living Through MP3