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# About This Issue

One of the major composers of the 20th century lived just five weeks into the 21st (if one uses the traditional reckoning of centuries). Compared to other famous composers of his generation, Iannis Xenakis (1922–2001) had an especial impact on computer music. Xenakis's significance for our field stems not only from his creation of electroacoustic pieces but also, more fundamentally, from the mathematical thinking that similarly pervades his numerous instrumental works. This issue of *Computer Music Journal* is dedicated to his influence.

We are fortunate to have a Xe-

nakis expert on the staff of the Journal. Associate editor James Harley, author of *The Music of Iannis Xenakis* (Harwood Academic Publishers, in press) served as a de facto guest editor for this issue. He solicited and helped to review and edit all the articles in this issue, in addition to fulfilling his usual responsibilities of assembling the reviews and products sections. His editorial summarizes the topics of these articles, which include assessments of Xenakis's influence on two composers of computer music as well as analyses of two Xenakis compositions. The fifth article, by Mr. Harley him-

self, supplies a welcome survey of Xenakis's electroacoustic oeuvre.

In keeping with the issue's theme, the reviews section includes an examination of the proceedings of an important symposium on Xenakis that was held in Paris in 1998. The book's 27 articles (most in French, with eight in English) reveal an evolution in Xenakis scholarship in the 1990s. As usual, the reviews section also covers other topics, diverging from the issue's main theme. In addition to evaluations of various books and audio CDs, we present reviews of a CD-ROM, two music festivals, and a software product.

*Front cover:* Iannis Xenakis at a mixing console, with an excerpt from his composition *Metastaseis* as a backdrop.

*Back cover:* The National Ballet of Canada dances to Xenakis's 1969 composition *Kraanerg*. (Courtesy of the National Ballet of Canada Archives.)