Chris Yavelow

Literary Bio

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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 author, editor, publisher, series editor, 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. Since 2007, he has been teaching online for University of Maryland, both *Music as Cultural Expression* and *Digital Media*, a course for graphic design majors leading them through Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to create a printed catalog of their work.

Yavelow's professional involvement with books began as a teenager during a summer job setting metal type for printing presses. This experience led to his first published book, a graphic novel entitled **Green** (1971). Eight years later, he self-published **Harmonization** (in France), a music theory text about the pedagogical approach of Nadia Boulanger.

In the 1980s, Yavelow focused on opera librettos. His 35,000-word opera libretto, **The Passion of Vincent Van Gogh**, was a commission from the National Endowment for the Arts in conjunction with the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France. Two years later, he penned his libretto, **The Rogue**, while in residence at the Cummington Community of the Arts. In 1987, he developed a computer program to automate libretto text formatting for his opera **Countdown**, a commission from the Boston Lyric Opera under the auspices of the National Institute of Music Theater. This award-winning opera went on to receive accolades as the first computer-assisted opera (1986), the first virtual orchestra performance (1987), and the first opera in cyberspace (1993).

From 1984 through 1994, he was a contributing editor for *Macworld, Electronic Musician, Byte, Computer Music Journal, Macintouch, Macromedia Journal, MacWeek, Verbum,* and *New Media Magazine.* During the 1980s and 1990s, Yavelow was the world's most widely published author in the field of computer music.

In 1993, IDG published Yavelow's first mainstream book, **The Macworld Music and Sound Bible** (1400-pages—their first "Bible" book). Praised by reviewers worldwide, 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 co-authoring book deals 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 books, he worked as an authors' advocate by renegotiating all their author contracts to more closely resemble the one he had created for his own **Music and Sound Bible**, a contract that had been subsequently incorporated into IDG's boilerplate author contract.

Since the turn of the century, he has been developing an unprecedented software tool for authors, now available at FictionFixer.com. Technically an "expert system," the software analyzes characteristics of current bestselling novels to define a model representing what the public expects from such bestsellers. Besides being a tool for authors and publishers, 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.

In 2006, he launched YAV Publications at InterestingWriting.com, an author-friendly indie publishing company with high standards; by 2020, it had published nearly 90 authors. Also in 2006, writing under the anagrammatic pseudonym Chris Loveway, he published his first novel, **Tree of Life**, the book-trailer for which received 1st prize in MediaBistro's "Book Trailer Battle" of 2007.

A student of Jerry Jenkins' *Christian Writers Guild*, he has attended writers' conferences at Billy Graham's The Cove (NC), China Lake (ME), Sandy Cove (MD), Washington (DC), and Ridgecrest (NC), among others. He has led or been an outspoken member of many writers' groups and has served as an adjudicator for creative writing competitions.

In September of 2009, Yavelow presented a sold-out, full-day writers' conference, *The Gift of Words,* in Joppa, Maryland. There, he presented seminars on P.O.D., rewriting and self-editing, and the first public lecture on his concept of "The Rhythm of Writing," an approach to creative writing that combines proven musical compositional strategies with sound writing principles.

In 2012, he returned to The Cove to teach "Advanced Editing" focusing on techniques he unveiled at the end of 2011 in his book **Final Edit, The Final Hours of Your Final Draft.** This book is the first book in the ongoing *Science of Writing* book series (see ScienceOf Writing.com). The series approaches various aspects of the writing process by creating strategies that leverage the information collected by FictionFixer throughout twelve years of data-mining bestsellers.

Yavelow moved to Asheville, North Carolina in 2009, and currently participates in many of the writing events and activities of the city that some refer to as "the writing-est city in North Carolina."