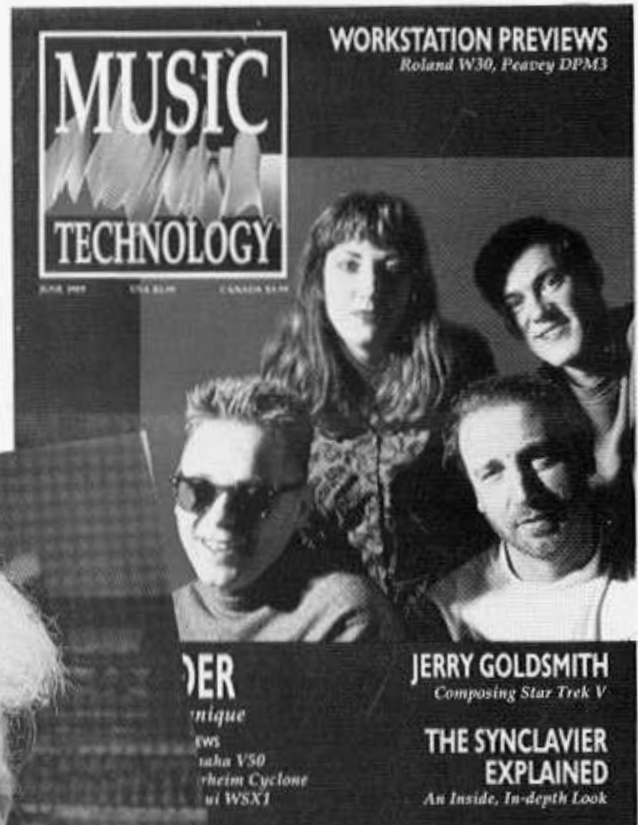


STAR GAZER

Jerry Goldsmith's remarkable talent has graced films as disparate in their musical moods as *Patton* and *Star Trek*. Now he's off on another voyage, to boldly go . . . Interview by Deborah Parisi.



MT: *I understand that you are using the new version of the AURICLE with the C/PC computer.*

JG: "Yes. That's an amazing program. When you're writing music for film, you're writing to fit certain time parameters. For instance, if you have a piece of music that runs three minutes, you may have 25 different moments within the three minutes that you have to accent or change the mood or synchronize to events on the screen. And there is a certain amount of math that's involved in getting your music to arrive at those various points. You can do that by changing the tempo of the music, or the meter — if you have to synchronize to a

scene that's 35 and two-thirds seconds long, those two-thirds seconds are important. You'd think that this is a blink of an eye, but you can tell when the music's up against the film that you are significantly off."

"We used to make those adjustments by long hand, but now the AURICLE does it for you. You just tell it what tempo you want, and what meter you're writing in, and then you say I'm going to catch something at 15 and seven-eighths seconds, and it'll tell you what bar you're going to be at, and what beat you're going to be at, an how far off you are. Now if you want to come on a downbeat, you can change the meter, but it still may be off by 25%. Well, the AURICLE can then

adjust the tempo automatically and make it happen dead on."

"It also generates clicks, clicks being the metronome. A lot of times when you're conducting an orchestra, you'll use the click track to guide you. Although you can do it free-timing too, using just cue marks [streamers] on the film, which gives you a little more latitude than being tied down by the click track. When I'm free timing, there's a series of marks [streamers and flutters] on the [video] screen to tell me where I am. Those used to be punched [on film] by hand by a music editor, but this program generates them now, saving the music editor an awful lot of time."