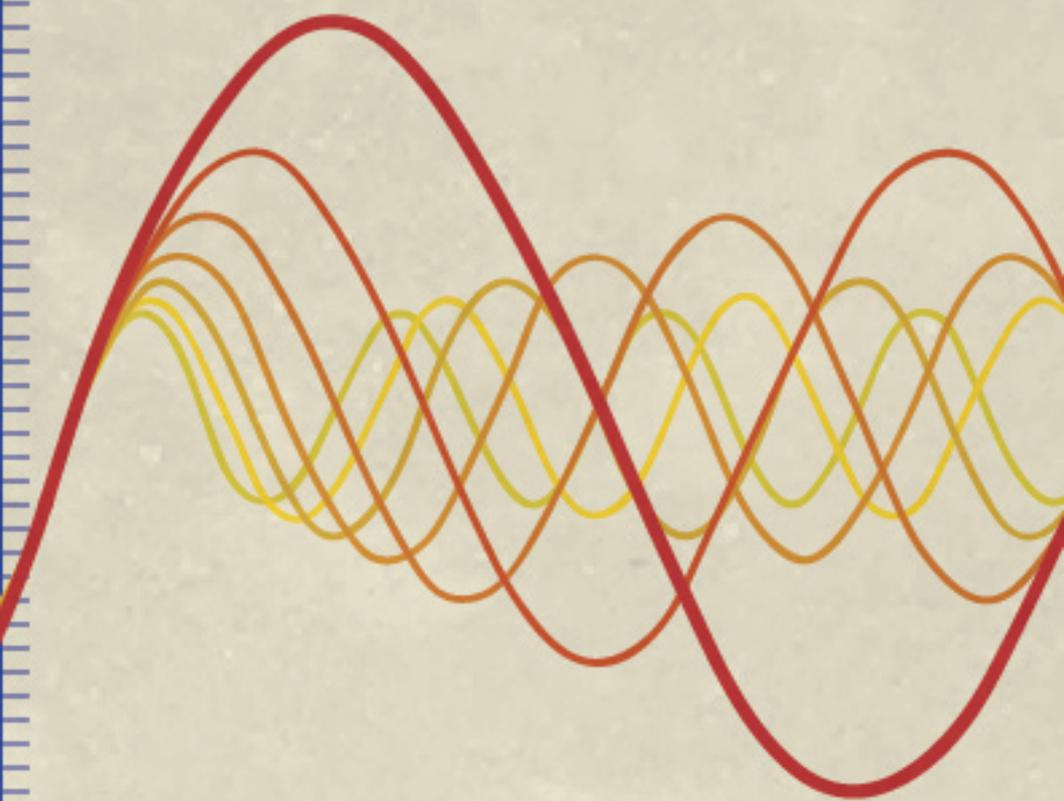


# CHANNELS FREQUENCIES & SEQUENCES



poems

MICHAEL BROOKS CRYER

# CHANNELS, FREQUENCIES, & SEQUENCES

MICHAEL BROOKS CRYER

## **SAMPLE**

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ISBN 978-0-9973974-3-7

Published by Four Chambers Press  
PO Box 564, Phoenix, AZ 85001



# CHANNELS

# ONE

To start things off, we'll play a song that exemplifies a subtle use of vocal harmony, acoustic rhythm piano and acoustic sonority. We'll also address the unnatural moments—the moments that aren't musical, but mnemonically dysfunctional and not radio friendly. Letter writing might have been a better idea than listening to this song. We aren't sure if letters can be melodic, but we'd like to think so. Keep tuning in. Keep searching for other examples of just what this is. Try to name it. If you can't name it, you're on your own—we might not have a place for a listener like you. Advertising is to frequency as Castle Rock is to meandering. Listen. Have you finished your letter yet? Address it to a PO Box. Moments like this are wasted on those who need things in their entirety—fragments are to modern frequencies as biographies are to dark matter. Up next is the root of it all. Listen. Don't be fooled. This is a radio channel. We play music.

## TWO

Apparently, you're still listening. Have you considered taking up a hobby? There are groups for people like you. Try creating a newer, contemporaneous you without mild syncopation. We know an uncle who abandoned his initial tonality for a shih tzu and a poodle. The shih tzu turned out mute, but the poodle's subtle harmonies found their way into his family's subconscious and remain there to this day. The poodle communicated like this with his nephew who demanded a sousaphone instead. He went to Harvard. The poodle never left the backyard and continues to bark in basic structures.

## THREE

We played this song because you've been watching TV all day and need to clean the house. Your dog is missing. The neighbors have it in their garage with their dogs. Your dog prefers community to your petting. His astrological sign changed from Cancer to Sagittarius on Wednesday, and you weren't there to witness. Enough with your subtle usages! We're no longer taking that into consideration. Call for your dog. See what happens. He doesn't understand how you form acoustics, but he'd still like to hear from you. The more electronic the better. You'll send the right message. We promise. Call and respond. Call and respond. Then antiphony will set in for the both of you. It's better this way. You'll have something in common with the formidable and not so distant similarities and coincidences identified in our forthcoming decisions about you. We want to know your atmosphere.

## FOUR

This song features ambient soundscapes because we know how much you like to escape. If we could, we would add a deer over there next to the Oldsmobile with the family from Tubac in it. Why is that kid rocking in the backseat? He looks new age, light rock—kind of like a harmony waiting to happen, but he just keeps pounding the shit out of the back of his head on the headrest. We bet he'll suffer from extensive vamping later in life. Look, the deer is feeding. It needs grass to survive.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Michael Brooks Cryer lives in Phoenix, AZ and teaches writing at Arizona State University. His poems have appeared in *Ecotone*, *Quarterly West*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Spork*, *DIAGRAM*, *Four Chambers* and others. His collection, *Selected Proverbs*, won Elixir Press' 2016 Antivenom Poetry Award and will be released in 2017.