



# Jacqueline Cordes

Composer • Polyglot • Synesthete

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## — Artist Bio —

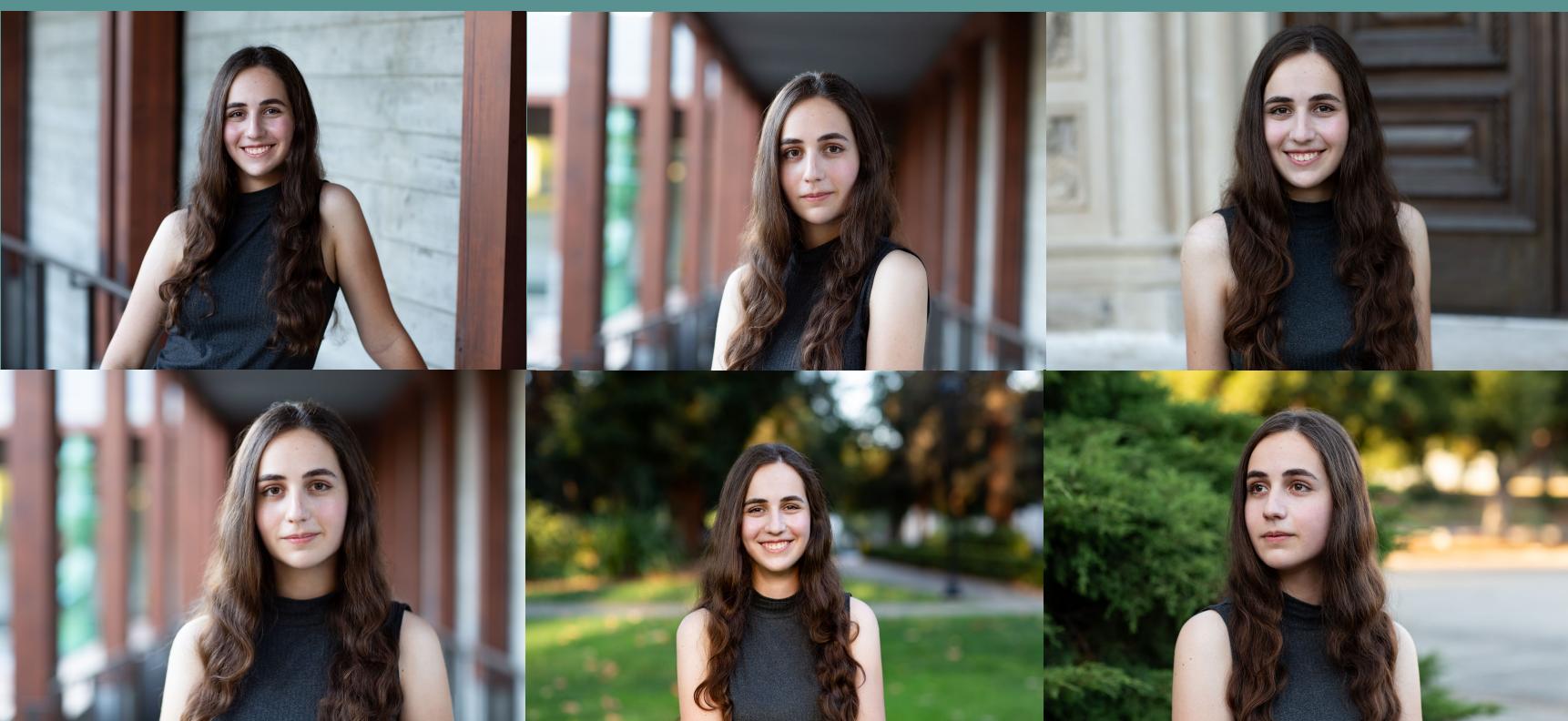
Jacqueline is a composer whose **synesthesia** associates musical atmospheres with colors and drives her quest to conjure a wide variety of immersive and imaginative worlds. Her work is best described as neoclassical with cinematic and gothic influences. While her debut album *Singularity* (2024) expanded the boundaries of music and transported listeners to ancient and futuristic eras, her second release *Frozen Star* is the more colorful album. The two albums combine to provide a vivid tour of the Chromaverse—each track is a portal to a distinct cinematic realm with its own spirit and story. Jacqueline also released her first original soundtrack in 2025 for the short film “Three Angles.”

Jacqueline holds a degree in music (composition) from Pomona College, where she received the 2025 Gordon A. Hogan Memorial Prize for her contributions to contemporary composition. She has performed on KSPC and at venues ranging from intimate gatherings to co-headlining a public fundraising event.

In addition to her compositional work, Jacqueline is a polyglot (Japanese and Chinese), a digital artist, and a writer. She was invited to present her work on musical color and her JSID scale-cataloging system at the 21st International Fibonacci Conference and later co-authored a peer-reviewed article called “How Vast Is Music?”, published in an academic journal. Her lecture-concerts, often focused on musical modes and synesthesia, appeal to audiences across disciplines. She’s currently scoring short films and aims to work full-time as a composer for feature films.

Her musical influences include Danny Elfman, Radiohead, Trent Reznor, Dead Can Dance, Depeche Mode, and Łukasz Michałski.

## — Press Photos —



## — Reviews —

“What makes Singularity truly remarkable is its ability to balance academic exploration with emotional depth ... Singularity is a standout debut that showcases the limitless potential of sound as a storytelling medium.” - TJPL News Magazine

“A cohesive and visionary work that seamlessly blends the organic and the electronic, the ancient and the futuristic ... [it] not only establishes Jacqueline Cordes as a composer of extraordinary talent but also as an artist unafraid to push boundaries and redefine what music can be.” — KIMU

“The music is sweeping, dramatic, and vivid enough to soundtrack entire worlds, and I found myself constantly surprised by the ambition that went into shaping it.” — Pitch Perfect

“There’s something almost alchemical about the way Jacqueline Cordes composes, a kind of sorcery that turns ... emotions into landscapes, and songs into storybooks.” — The Indie Grid

“Reminds fondly of Danny Elfman’s scores ... fit for both the big screen and more personal listening experiences.” — Obscure Sound

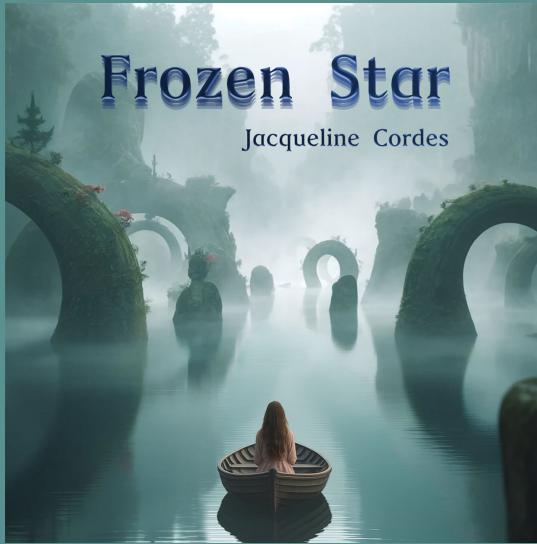
“Fairytale theatics, deeply expressive and moving, achingly beautiful. There is both a grandeur and boundlessness to it.” — Apollo’s Harp



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## — Album Description —



[jacquelinecordes.bandcamp.com/album/frozen-star](https://jacquelinecordes.bandcamp.com/album/frozen-star)

- ▶ 1. Illusions of Amethyst 02:45
- 2. Verdant Heart
- 3. Transience
- 4. Entering the Dreamscape
- 5. The Skyship of Dreams
- 6. Shadowland
- 7. Realm of the Red Sun
- 8. Ordo ab Chao
- 9. Dance of the Dead
- 10. Father and Daughter – End Credits
- 11. Existence
- 12. Reflections of Solitude

releases August 8, 2025

### Overview

Jacqueline Cordes's album *Frozen Star* transports listeners across the Chromaverse. The first stop is the world of "The Puppetmaker," a music video created for the single "Illusions of Amethyst." The video tells the story of a mysterious masked Puppetmaker meticulously performing his sacred craft in an abandoned world.

**1. Illusions of Amethyst** – A waltz-like overture in deep violet: piano arpeggios unfurl into hushed choral harmonies and orchestral sweep, conjuring a sense of mystery and ritual. Critics heard both Max Richter's elegance and Alan Menken's fairytale allure here, while the accompanying Puppetmaker video extends its gothic undertone. A regal, cinematic opening that announces the album's synesthetic world.

**2. Verdant Heart** – Beginning with delicate plucked strings and airy flutes, the track grows into pastoral breadth with sweeping strings and bell-like accents. Reviewers compared it to the quiet grandeur of an Avatar landscape—graceful, springlike, a sonic horizon that balances serenity with swelling orchestration. A meditation on renewal rendered in green hues.

**3. Transience** – Built on a single repeating note that expands into chords, strings, and subtle electronics, this piece was compared to Jon Hopkins for its hypnotic propulsion. Minimalist yet dynamic, it embodies impermanence: notes dissolve as soon as they arrive, giving the impression of constant forward motion, fleeting but profound.

**4. Entering the Dreamscape** – A tender, minimalist interlude where soft piano motifs and cosmic bell tones create a hypnotic calm. Critics noted its resemblance to Max Richter's restraint—more hypnotic than ornamental—providing pause and introspection, like drifting into reverie between larger cinematic movements.

**5. The Skyship of Dreams** – Metallic bass tones ground the opening, soon lifted by soaring orchestral lines. Reviews highlight its air of mystery and discovery—half shadow, half wonder—as though boarding a vessel that hovers between worlds. A transportive moment of ascent and arrival, shimmering with awe.



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**6. Shadowland** – Dark synths, haunting drum pulses, and dissonant harmonies set an anxious, gothic tone. Some writers framed it as confronting inner demons, with textures that feel both operatic and unsettling. It is the album's corridor of unease—introspective, restless, and magnetic.

**7. Realm of the Red Sun** – Swirling orchestral passages blaze into one of the album's most dramatic moments. Critics likened it to Game of Thrones or Gladiator in its epic weight, rising like solar fire from the shadows. A rousing, theatrical surge of energy and resilience.

**8. Ordo ab Chao** – A short but powerful vignette: ticking rhythms, brooding choirs, and rippling water textures. Reviewers emphasized its Latin meaning—“order from chaos”—and how the track embodies it, distilling chaos into solemn, deliberate order. Experimental yet deeply ritualistic.

**9. Dance of the Dead** – Playful in its darkness, mischievous in its precision. Critics compared it to a twisted puppet dance, with Tim Burton-esque theatricality. Its brevity makes it all the sharper: a gothic interlude that cuts through solemnity with eerie humor.

**10. Father and Daughter – End Credits** – A mournful, filmic coda of spare piano and gentle strings. Several reviewers called it graceful and emotive, reminiscent of Amélie in tone—an intimate vignette of connection and memory that lingers like closing credits.

**11. Existence** – A quieter descent, with minimal folk-like contours and calming synth washes. Reviewers described it as a grounding piece, meditative and peaceful, offering relief after the album's darker passages. An earthbound, consoling respite.

**12. Reflections of Solitude** – At nearly six minutes, the album's centerpiece and finale: somber string quartet textures layered with piano, swelling slowly into haunting minimalism. Critics repeatedly singled it out as the most expansive and introspective track—an elegiac closing frame that lingers like the last scene of a film.



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### Tracklist

1	Otherworld	3:00
2	A Child's Song	3:27
3	Encounter From Beyond	2:13
4	De tous biens plaine	5:10
5	Amber Sky	2:53
6	Reality 101 Failure Intro	0:53
7	Tunnel (Running Theme)	2:47
8	The Pursuer	4:28
9	The Pursuer (Postlude)	1:56
10	Aurora	5:35

### Notes

All compositions written, performed, and produced by Jacqueline Cordes

[jacquelinecordes.bandcamp.com/album/singularity](http://jacquelinecordes.bandcamp.com/album/singularity)

### Overview

Jacqueline Cordes' *Singularity* is a deeply immersive debut album that explores the intersection of classical composition, cinematic storytelling, and electronic soundscapes. Jacqueline guides the listener through a sonic journey that transcends time and space. Drawing inspiration from Danny Elfman, Dead Can Dance, Radiohead, Trent Reznor, Depeche Mode, and Łukasz Michalski, she creates an album that is haunting, exhilarating, and thought-provoking.

The ten-track album takes listeners through shifting landscapes—some ancient and folkloric, others futuristic and avant-garde. Each piece is meticulously crafted, evoking vivid imagery and an emotional depth that lingers long after the final note. *Singularity* is not just music; **it is an experience**, a collection of stories woven together through Jacqueline's distinct musical vision.

**1. Otherworld** The opening track immediately establishes *Singularity*'s ethereal, surreal atmosphere. Haunting piano motifs and cascading synth waves create a sense of **stepping through a portal into an unknown realm**. The piece oscillates between minimalism and grandeur, as eerie harmonics and swelling orchestral textures build tension. Like an invitation to explore the remnants of an abandoned desert world, *Otherworld* is both inviting and unsettling, drawing the listener into the album's sonic landscape.

**2. A Child's Song** At first glance, *A Child's Song* seems playful and nostalgic, built around a delicate waltzing piano. However, beneath the surface lurks an eerie, gothic atmosphere. Choral vocalizations drift in like whispers from another world, evoking a Halloween haunfest. This duality—innocence tinged with unease—cements the track as a **dark fairytale in musical form**, a signature of Jacqueline's storytelling approach.



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3. **Encounter From Beyond** Minimal yet emotionally charged, this track creates a cinematic meditation on the idea of the unknown and conjures nostalgia for the aliens and ufos of the popular imagination a century ago. The interplay of sparse instrumentation and subtle harmonic tension evokes a feeling of **discovery, mystery, and reflection**. The piece is a quiet yet profound moment of contemplation amid the album's shifting tonal landscapes.

4. **De tous biens plaine** A stunning reimagination of the French Renaissance chanson, this track faithfully follows the rules of medieval counterpoint and **transports listeners across time**. Layering her fluttering vocals on top of plucked strings, Jacqueline's journey to early music somehow fits among her atmospheric soundscapes from different worlds.

5. **Amber Sky** One of the album's most tranquil and introspective moments, *Amber Sky* is a lush, beautifully flowing solo piano piece that radiates warmth. Its meditative quality flows from cascading arpeggios. The piece is **intimate, peaceful, and reflective**, allowing the listener a breath of serenity before the album plunges into deeper tension.

6. **Reality 101 Failure Intro** Written for a sci-fi short film, this track is a short yet powerful interlude, this track's pulsing electronic elements create **an eerie, futuristic soundscape**, and sets the stage for what is to come.

7. **Tunnel (Running Theme)** Dark, intense, and cinematic, *Tunnel (Running Theme)* captures the **adrenaline of pursuit**. The piece opens with a low rumbling before growing into an ominous, relentless force of pulsing rhythms and eerie piano motifs. It evokes the feeling of running through a forest, chased by something unseen.

8. **The Pursuer** One of *Singularity*'s most dynamic compositions, *The Pursuer* plays out like a high-stakes film score. Opening with sparse, ghostly piano notes, the track gradually builds into a sweeping orchestral arrangement. The violin and flute represent characters who become anxiously intertwined. The result is a piece that is both **ominous and mesmerizing**, painting a vivid picture of suspense, confrontation, and inescapable fate.

9. **The Pursuer (Postlude)** Stripped down and intimate, this track serves as the emotional aftermath of *The Pursuer*. A solo piano, limited to the octatonic scale, perpetuates the sense of anxiety. It is a **sparse and poignant** contrast to the grandeur of the previous track, reinforcing the cinematic arc of the album.

10. **Aurora** The album's closing track is its most celestial piece. *Aurora* is a mesmerizing, ambient sound bath, layering ethereal synth textures into a sweeping, meditative finale in which the listener's imagination becomes an active participant, contributing transitory sound illusions. It evokes **light breaking through darkness**, and as the final notes dissipate into silence, the listener is left with a sense of transformation—of having traveled through Jacqueline Cordes' singular musical universe and emerged changed.

*Singularity* defies genre, blending neoclassical, electronic, and cinematic elements into a cohesive artistic vision. It is an album of textures, colors, and narratives, where every piece serves a purpose in constructing its immersive world. Jacqueline Cordes has not only crafted an album—she has designed an experience that challenges the boundaries of music and emotion.

For those willing to visit its worlds, *Singularity* is a **journey unlike any other**.