



JEFF
MELLIN

PLAYER
PIANO
(Dream)
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Player Piano

(DREAM 19)



Also by the author

Jeff Mellin Saves the World, Parts 1ne & 2we

(“Double EP” Album, Stereorrific Recordings, 1999)

Good for a Gander, w/ the Midnight Cowboys

(Album, Stereorrific Recordings, 2001)

Come Apart & Other Minor Disasters:

Best Recordings, 1994-97, w/ The Eddies

(Album, Stereorrific Recordings, 2006)

Skin & Bones: Song Lyrics

(Book, Kolourmeim Press, 2008)

Love is Made of Sky

(EP, dPulse/Stereorrific Recordings, 2010)

Three On A Match, w/ Neil Carlill & King Toad

(Album/Lyric Book, Stereorrific Recordings, 2011)

Driveway Chalk Stars of Pajama Astronomers: A Year of Haiku

(Book, Pennyring Press, 2020)



PLAYER PIANO

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Lyrics & song (Sweet Red Onion Publishing, BMI)
originally published on Facebook on May 7, 2020

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ISBN 978-1-4357-8874-9

FIRST EDITION (PAPERBACK)

Cover & interior decorations:

Master of Claude de France, *Book of Flower Studies*, ca.
1510–1515, Made in Tours, France, Purchase, The
Cloisters Collection, Lila Acheson Wallace
Gift, and Rogers Fund, 2019. Public Domain, courtesy
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Space, Ardmore, PA (www.commonspaceardmore.org)

Design by Jeff Mellin. Typset in Crimson Text, Butler,
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of Flower Studies*

Printed & distributed by Lulu.com for Pennyring Press
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For my family & friends



"Pop!"

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Foreword

ANYONE WHO WRITES KNOWS
some days you're arranging
driftwood and desert island
beach stones, trying to signal an airplane,
trying to jury-rig a radio telescope from
the stuff in your pockets. And then,
other days, you're soaked catching high
tide tsunami water in cups, scrambling
to translate an alien transmission.

This was the latter.

These are strange days, to say the
least. Here's to better days ahead.

— J.B.M.
MAY, 2020



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A predictable player
piano insisted its
synchronized ticker tape
hymns to me

from beneath its meticulous
telegraph teeth spitting
slick Rickenback'
Bells of Rhymney



as its smoke signal chimney
stack syllables swelled
spilling paperbacks
scrolled for delivery

subliminally mailed
on a braille punctured spinnaker
billowed with slivers
of melody



By the grim chimney flue
a windswept witness
film crew fell silent and
wept in astonishment

and prayed that the daylight
that lit the smoke backwards
would slip past the choke
grip of sunset

but the cinematographers'
prayers and offers
were burned on the earth's
curve descending

like a diving whale
turned through the submarine air
toward a cinnamon
diving bell crescent

S o in slivers of moonlight
with apertures open
as wide
as a silvery ocean

they caught cinnamon cinders
of stellar exposure
exploding
with embers of motion

that trailed through the negatives
tearing deliberative
burning
with rapturous delicacy

as a music unrolled
from the paperback scroll
spilling loose
from its prayer book reliquary



Meanwhile I prepared
that piano with pages
I'd torn
from an industry annual

deflecting the hammers
with clothespin hosannas
that stuck
in the eye of a camel

Needless to snitch
the stitched piano wires intricate
unravelling
every listen

so I slipped out past the cemetery
whistling the melody though
my mask hid
my expression

