**Best Hangout for Experimental Composers**

Mike Quinn Electronics. I don’t know this for sure, because I’m not an experimental composer, but Larry Polansky, who is one, reports that Quinn’s has tons of parts and pieces for electronic equipment and, if you want to build something musical, this is the place to go. Apparently they just opened up a whole new room for electronic music equipment. But you have to know what you’re doing. “Can you get, for instance,” I asked Larry, “a DX7 synthesizer?” “No,” he replied, “but you can probably find the knob for a DX7.” Oakland Airport. Building 727.

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**Best Place to Hear New Music**

Mills College. The Center for Contemporary Music at Mills is one of the nation’s centers for musical experimentation. Composers who have worked there include Steve Reich, Luciano Berio, and Lou Harrison. The current composers at the center, including David Rosenboom, Larry Polansky, and Anthony Braxton, present regular concerts at Mills which are extraordinary and shouldn’t be missed by anyone interested in contemporary musical activity. For the more conservative, there’s a concert coming up at Mills of music by Stravinsky, Hovhaness, Kraft, and Messiaen. Just kidding — actually, they have several concerts a year of traditional classical music. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.