

## ASTROLOGY: A SECOND OPINION

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I have been writing astrological software of one form or another since the early 1970s. In 1977 I was the first astrologer to program astrology on home computers and make those programs available to my fellow astrologers. In that year I founded Matrix Software, the second oldest software company still on the Internet, the only older company being Microsoft, according to an article written for Red Herring Magazine. I chose the word “matrix” not for its mathematical indications, but because it meant womb, an environment where something emerges or is born, and I was helping to womb modern astrology. And so on.

Why astrology? Because astrology changed my life by offering me a second opinion on who I am compared to society’s profile of me based on the popular psychology of the time. Remember, I grew up in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and back then everyone was labeled neurotic, paranoid, manic-depressive, schizophrenic, and so on. This was not how I, a young adult, wanted to view myself.

Astrology’s view of me was liberating; it represented an alternative perspective of who I was and why I am here, compared to psychology’s neurotic cloud of labels that was supposed to define me. Suddenly I was a new person in my own eyes. And although astrology is considered more or less a joke in this country, I soon found that in countries like China, India, and Tibet it was not only taken seriously, but regularly used and accepted by those societies. The Tibetan Buddhist Rinpoches that I so respect all use astrology. I never looked back.

I don’t blog here much about my astrological software company. However, in the last year my staff and I have finished developing a really wonderful program that you should at least know something about. It is called Blue\*Star. Yes, it does cost money, but we all have to make a living. I try to offer my Facebook friends as much free stuff as I can. You know that.

What is interesting about Blue\*Star is that it not only produces all of the astrological charts and graphs that astrologers use, but it also has an interpretation mode with sixteen complete astrological reports, interpretations all written by me. Each of these sixteen interpretive reports is 20 or so pages long, beautifully formatted, illustrated, and also easy to read. And they do not require that you know anything about astrology and are not filled with astrological jargon. It is the same kind of writing you already know from me here.

If you enjoy the astrology I sometimes write on Facebook, you might also enjoy being able to do your own astrology whenever you wish. Using Blue\*Star you can produce unlimited interpretive reports for yourself, family, friends, co-workers, etc. These include reports on your birth chart, career, inclinations, life strategy, relationships (friends, lovers, co-workers), plus a full complement of forecasts, like what I write here.

If you don't have a PC, these same reports are also available as web services, individual reports, and even as applications for your mobile phones. Here are some links.

The 16 Astrology Reports (with samples):

<http://www.astrologysoftware.com/pro/bluestar/interpretation.aspx>

Matrix Software Home Page:

<http://www.astrologysoftware.com/>

Blue\*Star Program (upper left selection)

Web and Mobile Services (lower left)

Individual Reports:

<http://astrologyland.com/>

Forgive the self-promotion. For those who don't know my reputation as an astrologer, internationally-known astrologer and author Noel Tyl (34 books on astrology) had this to say about me.

"Michael Erlewine is the giant influence whose creativity is forever imprinted on all astrologers' work since the beginning of the Computer era! He is the man who single-handedly applied computer technology to astrological measurement, research, and interpretation, and has been the formative and leading light of astrology's modern growth. Erlewine humanized it all, adding perception and incisive practical analyses to modern, computerized astrology. Now, for a second generation of astrologers and their public, Erlewine's genius continues with StarTypes ... and it's simply amazing!"