

RAY KURZWEIL is one of the world's leading inventors, thinkers, and futurists, with a thirty-year track record of accurate predictions. Called "the restless genius" by *The Wall Street Journal* and "the ultimate thinking machine" by *Forbes* magazine, Kurzweil was selected as one of the top entrepreneurs by *Inc.* magazine, which described him as the "rightful heir to Thomas Edison." PBS selected him as one of the "sixteen revolutionaries who made America."

Kurzweil was the principal inventor of the first CCD flat-bed scanner, the first omni-font optical character recognition, the first print-to-speech reading machine for the blind, the first text-to-speech synthesizer, the first music synthesizer capable of recreating the grand piano and other orchestral instruments, and the first commercially marketed large-vocabulary speech recognition.

Among Kurzweil's many honors, he is the recipient of the *National Medal of Technology*, was inducted into the *National Inventors Hall of Fame*, holds nineteen honorary Doctorates, and honors from three U.S. presidents.

Ray has written seven books, five of which have been national best sellers. *The Singularity is Near* and Ray's latest book *How to Create a Mind* have been New York Times Bestsellers.

Ray was recently appointed Director of Engineering at Google.