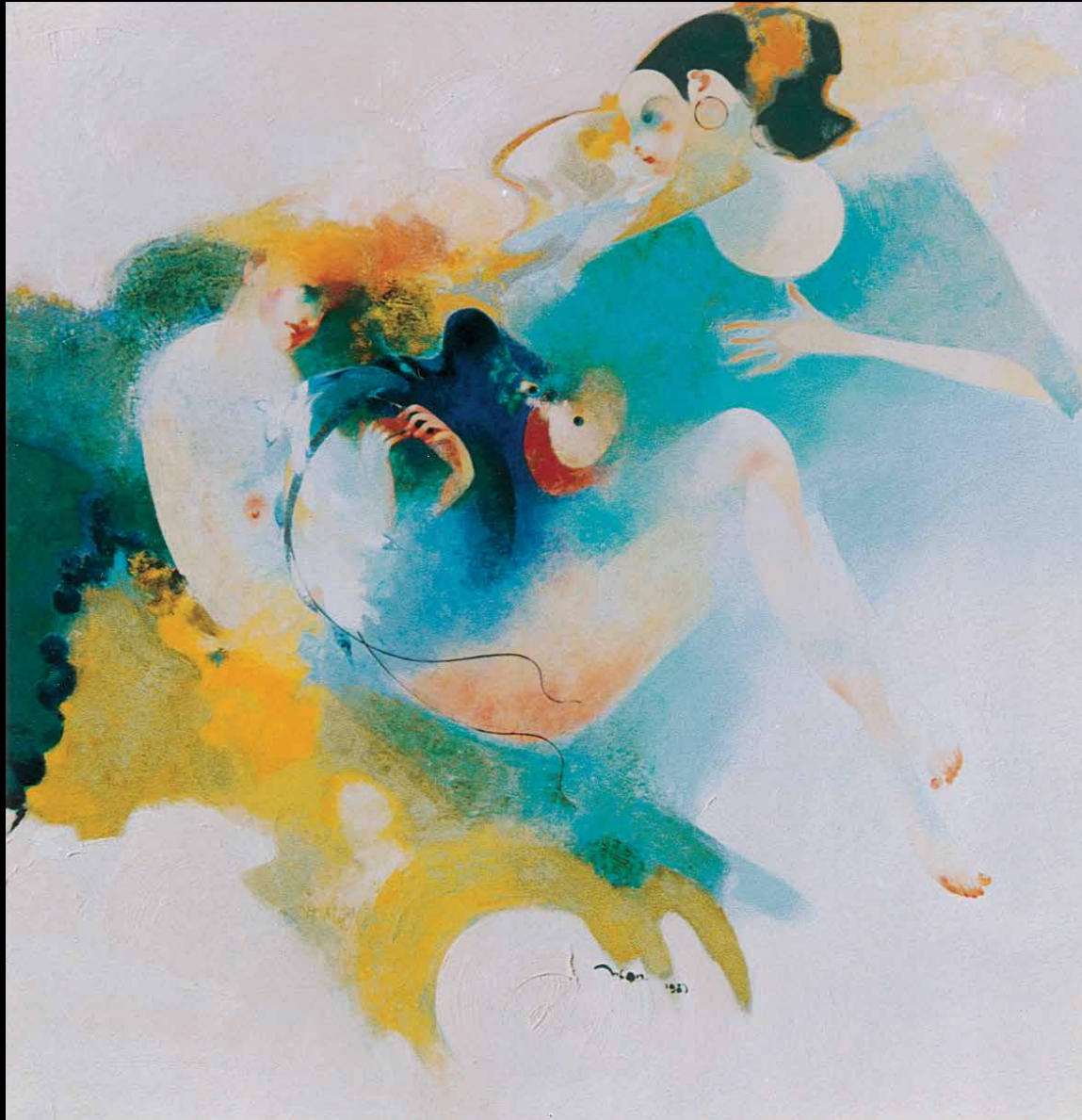


LANDSCAPES OF TIME

Contemporary Sound Art of Vietnam



LE TUAN HUNG and DANG KIM HIEN



1 Calm Water (1995) 7'16"

2 Longing for the Wind (1995) 7'23"

3 Improvisation on
Sa Mac Mode 6'48"

4 Inspiration on a South
Vietnamese Folk Melody (1982) 9'55"

5 Silent Tears (1995) 10'34"

6 Webs of life (1996) 15'20"

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Landscapes of Time presents a collection of works which explore new directions in contemporary sound art with a touch of Vietnamese musical colour. In these compositions, the colour of the Vietnamese tradition is explicit in the use of musical modes, traditional instruments and the strong emphasis on improvisation. At the same time, new boundaries of sounds are explored and exploded by the new playing techniques on traditional instruments, the new concepts of compositional structure and texture, and the adaptation of non-Vietnamese instruments (Balinese flute, Latin American rain stick), musical techniques (Tibetan and Mongolian harmonic singing) and new technologies. In addition, new performing techniques (such as throat voice singing without opening the mouth) are also developed. The ideas and feelings expressed in the compositions guided the composers' selection of sounds.

1 Calm Water (1995)

Music by Le Tuan Hung

Le Tuan Hung: dan tranh [Vietnamese zither], suling [Balinese flute], electronic crickets.

Dang Kim Hien: dan tranh [Vietnamese zither], electronic crickets.

A musical reflection of the feelings of a person who gazes at the tranquil surface of an isolated lake, with tiny waves generated by the fall of a few autumn leaves, and far away, the echoes of the buffalo horn sound like the calls for the rise of the new moon.

2 Longing for the Wind (1995)

Music by Le Tuan Hung

Le Tuan Hung: voice, bells, mo [temple block], dan nguyet [Vietnamese moon-lute], wind chimes, plastic wind roarer. Dang Kim Hien: voice, dan tranh [Vietnamese zither] Environmental sounds recorded by Le Tuan Hung.

Written in honor of the shamans of the past who could bring clouds and rain when needed, and whose power brought peace and happiness to their community.

3 Improvisation on Sa Mac Mode

Dang Kim Hien: dan bau

[Vietnamese monochord]

Le Tuan Hung: dan tranh [Vietnamese zither]

4 Inspiration on a South Vietnamese Folk Melody (1982)

Music by Dang Kim Hien

Dang Kim Hien: dan tranh [Vietnamese zither]

A musical poem about the landscape of South Vietnam: Sounds of the wind blowing across immense rice fields, sounds of the peacefully murmuring rivers and canals, and calls from the sorrowful hearts of people in love with the land.

5 Silent Tears (1995)

Music by Dang Kim Hien

Dang Kim Hien: Amplified throat voice (performed with a Shadow SH2000A transducer attached to the throat), phach

tre [bamboo block] and dua tre [bamboo chopsticks]

Le Tuan Hung: suling [Balinese flute]

In a place where common people are dirt, men in power have no heart, and greed and cruelty are the ways of life, tears are kept silent, compassion is hidden, and voices from the heart are suppressed. How long would this situation last? One may wonder. This composition is a vocalisation of the silent tears and the hidden compassion. It is also a tribute to the composer's homeland of sorrow.

6 Webs of life (1996)

Music for an audio-visual event by Dang Kim Hien and Le Tuan Hung. This event is a realisation of the perception of life projected in Nguyen Van Doi's painting entitled Kiep Nguoi [Human's Life].

Original music by Dang Kim Hien, musical structure and sounds of life by Le Tuan Hung, Buddhist chants by the monks of Quang Huong Gia Lam Temple (Vietnam). *Dang Kim Hien: dan tranh [zither], dan nguyet [lute], dan bau [monochord], trong com [rice drum], mo [woodblocks], phach tre [bamboo block], wooden clappers, rain stick, electronic crickets. Le Tuan Hung: ocarina, suling, temple bell, wind chimes, rain stick, Helix wind roarer.*

Living as we do in this world, we are bound, or even trapped in many webs of life: webs of love and hate, webs of duties and ambitions, webs of ideals and desires... Is there a way out?

Le Tuan Hung and Dang Kim Hien combine virtuoso performance and scholarly work in Vietnamese folk and classical music with a passion for contemporary forms. Their compositions which explore new boundaries of sounds with a touch of Vietnamese colour establish a new direction in contemporary sound art.

Le Tuan Hung is a composer, performer and author, specialising in Vietnamese music and experimental music of contemporary Australia. He has performed in Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and Oceania. His compositions and performances have been recorded on Move Records, ABC Music, and NMA Records. He is also the author of various publications on Vietnamese performing arts, and is regarded as an authority in Vietnamese musicology. He holds academic qualifications in various disciplines, including a PhD in Musicology from Monash University.



Dang Kim Hien is a composer and virtuoso performer in both traditional and contemporary music of Vietnam. She holds

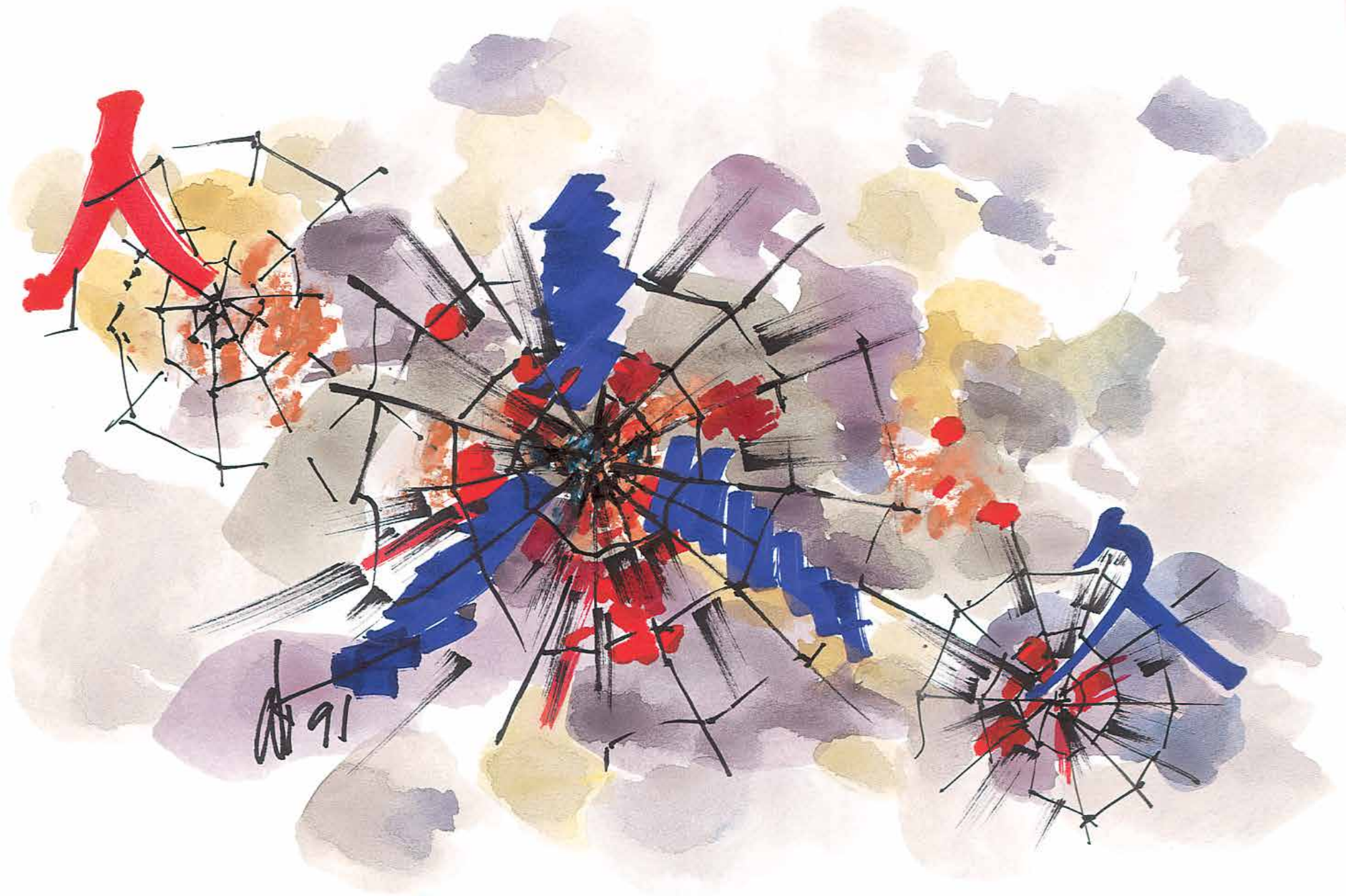
a National Gold Medal for Excellence in Vietnamese Zither Performance and a National Award for Excellence in Traditional Chants. In addition to her career as an active composer-performer, she taught at the Department of Traditional Music of the Conservatory of Music in Saigon for 14 years.

All compositions recorded in Melbourne in 1996. Digital editing and mastering by Martin Wright at Move Records Studio.

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Cover design: The Bird of Paradise (front) and Gate of Life (page 2) by Le Thanh Nhon. Webs of Life (page 5) by Nguyen Van Doi.

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