

Derek Jones | flute

Spirit Wind

move



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- 1 Journey to Serenity 8'10"
- 2 Violet Rays 7'19"
- 3 Meditation 7'29"
- 4 To Bliss 6'09"
- 5 Night Sky 7'50"
- 6 Distant Bells 7'08"
- 7 Blue Star 6'44"

All improvisations and compositions,
flutes, synthesiser, high pitched
bells: Derek Jones
The gong is played by Peter Neville

PHOTO OF DEREK JONES (ABOVE): BELINDA STRODDER
CLOUD PHOTOS: MARTIN WRIGHT
MASTERED AT MOVE RECORDS STUDIO

‘Derek Jones displays an evocative palette of tone colours, a fluid technique and ultimate control in this hauntingly expressive and innovative collection of improvisations ... beautifully atmospheric ... integrity and depth ... full of spirit and depth’

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RICHARD DAVIS,
HEAD OF CONDUCTING, MELBOURNE
UNIVERSITY, FORMER BBC PHILHARMONIC
PRINCIPAL FLUTE 1984-2017 AND SENIOR
LECTURER OF FLUTE AT THE ROYAL
NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC 1989-2017

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This collection of improvisations were recorded in May 2016 during sabbatical from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne University, after solo concert tours to Europe and Canada.

It follows on from my earlier recording of “Sun Down Moon Up” in 2008 which also is a collection of improvisations inspired by the idea of a universal spirit in all musical cultures.

This theme is continued in these seven new improvisations. In “Spirit Wind” the keyboard/synthesiser tracks were recorded first with particular soundscapes and ideas in mind, and then flute improvisations were recorded over these.

Other percussion and effects were added at the end of the flute recordings. Particularly beautiful are the deep Gamelan bells in “Meditation” and “Distant Bells”.

The aim is to create free flowing and expressive melodic elements over existing sounds which are sometimes a drone, but also interplay melodically with the flute lines.

The overall intention in these improvisations is to investigate and travel to a place where I can observe my journey through life and express my inner most thoughts and feelings about immediate surroundings and experiences, but also those places which are more subtle and mystical.

The fourth improvisation, “To Bliss” is an experience of my father’s death in 2009. In the week after his departure I recorded the keyboard synthesiser track, which was in response to my last time with him, early in the morning, and the feeling, thoughts and visions that I experienced. The alto flute is included here with the idea that the two flutes are having a conversation together, father and son.

Other improvisations are expressions of places that I have visited and the mystical qualities that I have sensed.

The second improvisation, “Violet Rays” is a observation of the human condition, the good and dark qualities being played out in the world, and my perspective looking from afar as if suspended from a distance. It is based on a Gregorian chant.

The third and sixth improvisations, “Meditation” and “Distant Bells” are in essence visualising a small ensemble of musicians improvising in an ethereal space away from the reality of this world, hence my desire to create a very large sense of space and timelessness.

“Night Sky” endeavours to show the tendency to feel the sense of separation in our human condition, and our need and yearning to find our true place in this world; to be completely on our own in the middle of the night, but to feel our own presence and true nature. This is based on the old hymn melody “40 Days and 40 Nights”.

The first and seventh improvisations “Journey to Serenity” and “Blue Star” are my attempts to show the place of arrival where one experiences a great sense of unity and tranquility; “Serenity” and the “Blue Star”, lighting up our path towards the final goal and destination.

I hope that you enjoy this collection of flute works. It has been a rewarding and enriching experience for me to bring these experiences and thoughts into sound and to express inner feelings through the form of musical soundscapes.

I would like to thank the Faculty of the VCA and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne, for the financial assistance to make this recording possible.

DEREK JONES
SEPTEMBER 2017



Derek Jones has enjoyed an extensive performing career throughout Australia, Europe USA, and Asia. His performing career includes solo performances with the Melbourne Symphony, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the latter involving solo appearances in Carnegie Hall, New York. Derek has toured

Europe and Asia with recital performances in Manchester, Dublin, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Italy and in 2016 performed in London and Canada.

He has also performed as soloist for ABC Radio in live broadcasts and has recorded recitals for ABC Classic FM. Derek has released his CD “Sun Down Moon Up” in 2008, a collection of his own compositions and improvisations.

He has also released CDs with the Australian recording label Move, including the 2015 release of “Flute Perspectives”, a collection of solo Australian contemporary works.



Peter Neville is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (now the Melbourne Conservatorium Of Music) and was appointed Head of Percussion there in 2000. He was also the inaugural Coordinator Of Percussion Studies at Australian National Academy of Music in 2013.

Whilst he works across the range of musical styles, he has a particular commitment to new music. As the percussionist of the Elision Ensemble for 31 years, he has been involved with practically all its concerts, recordings and international tours and has premiered dozens of works.

His career includes principal flute positions with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria.

He has made guest teaching appearances at the Paris Conservatoire, the Geneva Conservatoire, Graz Universitat, Trento Conservatorie, Trieste Conservatorio, The Royal College of Music London, The Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester The Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Boston University, The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Jeju Island Festival Korea, and the Taiwan Flute School.

Derek is currently the Head of Woodwind at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne, Australia.