

# FOOTSTEPS

ROS BANDT AND FRIENDS



# FOOTSTEPS

- 1 **Wake-up Call** Ros Bandt & Friends. Geese, cockerels and feet, Pickering Brook, Western Australia. 1'33"
  - 2—6 **From The Greenhouse** Ros Bandt/Sasha Bogdanowitsch. (20'06")
  - 2 **Epiphytes** conch, prepared tamboura, tamboura, psaltery, breath. 5'53"
  - 3 **Exotics** Original percussion instruments, merlin, bald eagle, frogs, gong, glass windchime, 'Ode to Mercury' windchime sculpture. 3'55"
  - 4 **Carnivores** cymbal, windchimes, ravens, African bead drum, 'Ode to Mercury', claves, amplified pins on steel sheet. 2'17"
  - 5 **Cacti** amplified pins, jews' harp, psaltery with glass. 3'11"
  - 6 **Aerial View of the Greenhouse** Tutti, kaleidoscopic mix of all. Gong, original percussion instruments, tamboura, psaltery, environmental tapes, 2 voices, 'Ode to Mercury'. 4'50"
  - 7 **Billy Tea in the Rain** Ros Bandt & Robert Primmer. Rain, birds, woodchopping, fire, feet, kookaburras. Dargo, Victoria. 2'19"
  - 8 **Footsteps** Ros Bandt/Mary Cassini & Friends. 3 Minutes World Silence. World-wide environmental recordings. 17'27"
  - 9 **Autumn Leaves** Ros Bandt & Friends. Princes Park, Carlton, Victoria. 0'40"
  - 10 **Coventry in West Brunswick** Ros Bandt/Le Thi Kim. Handbells, psaltery, dan tranh, voices, environmental recordings, prepared tape. 16'57"
  - 11 **Stepping Out From Dorcas Street** Ros Bandt/Le Thi Kim & Friends. South Melbourne, Victoria. 1'45"
- Total playing time 61 minutes

ROS BANDT

SASHA BOGDANOWITSCH

LE THI KIM

MOWBRAY COLLEGE HANDBELL RINGERS

BACK TO BACK ZITHERS

CHERYL BOGDANOWITSCH (sculptor)

MARY CASSINI (commissioner)

GARY HAVRILLAY (technician for 'Footsteps')

MARTIN WRIGHT (sound engineer and production)

and many other friends

Dedicated to my parents and John Cage

**We come and we go through the pathway of our lives: together, apart, here and there.**

Footsteps traces some warm times spent with friends at home (Coventry in West Brunswick) and away, (From the Greenhouse, Florida USA) Where we are, our sense of place governs how we see things as every traveller knows. The sound of feet traversing the earth's surface throughout FOOTSTEPS, both in the central piece and the four interludes is a reminder of the impact that location has on our lives. The pieces and interludes were designed and captured in diverse contexts. Each has emanated from spending time in a particular place with nature, with friends. Together the pieces are grafted as the footsteps of different people interweave, cross, or separate as they do in our daily lives.

**2. FROM THE GREENHOUSE** 20 mins

This collaborative work in five continuous movements is inspired by botanical plants in the Greenhouse at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida. The Spanish moss, lizards and squirrels, frogs and the water, were strong environmental influences.

1. Epiphytes (Conch shell, tamboura, psaltery)
2. Exotics (Insects, birds, water, percussion)
3. Carnivores (Original sound sculptures and windchimes, percussion)
4. Cacti (Pins, jew's harp, psaltery)
5. Aerial View of the greenhouse (Psaltery, tamboura, percussion, voices)

Text derived from the Latin botanical names of plants

**1. WAKE UP CALL**

Pickering Brook, Western Australia. Where human habitation and introduced species meet the bush. A day to be spent on Roger's flower farm cutting Geraldton wax.

### 3. BILLY TEA IN THE RAIN

The soft blanket of raindrops stills the forest. Robert chops the wood. We prepare and take tea together.

**4. FOOTSTEPS** is a tape collage of the sounds of the earth united by the sounds of feet in many locations, the breathing of an unborn child and the sound of the sea and oceans which unite us all. Many sounds were sent as gifts and woven into the global fabric. Particularly meaningful for Mary Cassini and myself were the bell and chanting from the church of the holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The cassette of these sounds arrived in an envelope some time after Mary had taken the world silence computerised Globe to the Middle East during the Gulf War. The piece was made in Melbourne while Mary was nursing her son who was dying of cancer. The 11th hour is tolled by the Adelaide GPO Clock.

### 5. AUTUMN LEAVES

Time has passed, It's autumn again even in the city.

### 6. COVENTRY IN WEST BRUNSWICK

Psaltery, (Medieval Zither), Dan Tranh (Vietnamese Zither), voices, environmental recordings, prepared tape. Around the time of the Gulf War, several arson attacks occurred in my immediate neighbourhood of West Brunswick, the most spectacular being to the St. John's Anglican Church. This church lost its entire roof and inner furnishings. Only the walls were left surrounding charred relics. The desecration, and yet undeniable beauty of the site became a constant reminder of the role of spirituality in Australian society and the directions which we face in the 90s. An old suburb, which has seen every wave of migration since the war, Brunswick is the new Australian mix of Black Africans, Arabs, Chinese, Yugoslavs, South Americans, Italians, Greeks and Anglo-Saxon Australians like myself. This piece is an attempt to open out whatever spiritual energy does still exist, (as the sky entered the church), so that cultural differences can be overcome and personal and musical communications enriched. Kim and I have been putting these ideas to the test for two years in the quartet, the Back to Back Zithers, a group devoted to composition through intercultural exchange and musical exploration. This piece was composed and performed for the Women Composers' Festival, Adelaide South Australia, 1991.

**Kim's Song** in **Coventry in West Brunswick**

**Thang Long Hoai Co** by **Ba Huyen Thanh Quan**

translated from the Vietnamese

Tao hoa gay chi cuoc hi trung  
Den nay tham thoat may tinh suong  
Loi xua xe ngua han thu thao  
Lau cu lau dai bang tích duong

Creator! Why do you create this life?  
Until now, how many foggy mornings have passed?  
On the old route, the horse carriage travels  
in the midst of autumn grass' souls.  
The sun is coming down, leaving behind the shadow of the old castle.

**11. STEPPING OUT FROM DORCAS STREET**

Back into the real world. Where to next, what to do, where have we come from, where are we going? What should we be doing?



# FOOTSTEPS

## ROS BANDT AND FRIENDS

ROS BANDT ● SASHA  
BOGDANOWITSCH ● LE THI KIM  
MOWBRAY COLLEGE HANDBELL RINGERS  
● BACK TO BACK ZITHERS  
CHERYL BOGDANOWITSCH (Sculptor) ●  
MARY CASSINI (Commissioner)  
GARY HAVRILLAY (Technician for Footsteps)  
● MARTIN WRIGHT (Sound Engineer and  
Production)  
and many other friends

**Ros Bandt** is a well-known composer, performer and sound sculptor. Her original music, sound sculptures and installations have been widely appreciated in Europe, America and Australasia. She plays the medieval psaltery and historical wind instruments with the early music group La Romanesca as well as creating her own acoustic and electronic compositions which are recorded on Move Records. In 1989, she was a founding member of the cross-cultural ensemble, the Back to Back Zithers. In 1990 she was the first woman to be awarded the prestigious Don Banks Composers' Fellowship and in 1991 won the Listening Room Sound Art award. She is writing a book on sound sculpture in Australia funded by an ARC Research Fellowship.

**Sasha Bogdanowitsch** is a performer-composer from Winter Park, Florida, USA. He collaborated with Ros Bandt on many projects during the Spring of '89 at Rollins College including the swimming pool extravaganza, Aqua Musica. He came to Australia to study, compose, perform, record and tour with Ros before travelling to India. He is completing his studies in world music and composition at California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles.

**Le Thi Kim** has been performing on the Dan Tranh for 20 years including several years teaching the instrument at the Conservatorium of Music in Ho Chi Minh City. She received the national gold medal for Dan Tranh performance in Vietnam in 1984. She came to Australia to study for a Master's Degree in Musicology at Monash University when she also became a member of the ensemble, Back to Back Zithers. Since that time she has given many concerts throughout the Pacific region and Europe. She now lives in Canada.

**Back to Back Zithers** — Le Thi Kim, Kari, Le Tuan Hung, Ros Bandt. Four composer performers who have created a multi-cultural new original music combined from east and west. They all play zithers, the Vietnamese dan tranh, Indonesian kecap and medieval psaltery. Their CD Quivering String is available on Move Records MD 3141.

**Mowbray College Handbell Ringers** were formed and directed by Dr Ros Smith, Director of Music at Mowbray College, Melton, Victoria. The piece Mowbray Bells which is mixed through two sections of Coventry in West Brunswick was composed graphically especially for them.

**Cheryl Bogdanowitsch** built Ode to Mercury, a large framed wood and metal sound sculpture with Ros for From the Greenhouse.

**Mary Cassini**, inventor of the 3 Minutes World Silence, actress and tapestry weaver, commissioned Footsteps to be played for the 15 minutes preceding 11.00 am January 1st every year, when the World Silence occurs. Her work for world peace has been recognised by international leaders worldwide as she has encouraged every one of us to remember the future and wish for peace.

**Gary Havrillay** technician from the ABC for Footsteps.

**Martin Wright** sound engineer, environmental recording, digital recording and editing.

## FROM THE GREENHOUSE

ROS BANDT (composer/performer/sound sculptor)

Composer: formal structure and instrumentation.

Performer: percussive tamboura string, psaltery, percussion, windchimes, pins, voice.

Instrument builder: percussion instruments from long brass and copper pipes, amplified pins on steel sheets.

Sound sculptor: glass, stone, wood, shell, bamboo windchimes, and sculpture Ode to Mercury.

Environmental recordings: especially the Merlin and Bald Eagles (recorded in Florida, USA).

SASHA BOGDANOWITSCH (composer/collaborator)

Text setting: Design and shape of latin botanical names of the plants.

Performer: conch shell, breathing, tamboura, jew's harp, voice, percussion, windchimes and sound sculptures.

MARTIN WRIGHT (recording engineer)

Environmental recordings: frogs and running water.

Recording: studio recording and digital mixing

From the Greenhouse was first performed in Perth at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, 7th April 1989.

## FOOTSTEPS

ROS BANDT. This piece was commissioned by Mary Cassini, founder of the 3 Minutes World Silence. Mary invented the world silence to traverse the Globe hour by hour as 11.00 o'clock moves through each time zone starting from the International Date Line. While observing the silence, all people are linked longitudinally in thought for three minutes to remember the future and wish for peace. Footsteps is played annually in the 15 minutes prior to 11.00 am January 1st before the world silence occur. In 1991 it was played in all the time zones around the world, in every continent. This commission with a world wide audience was a daunting brief, as well as an honour. I decided

that sounds of the world should carry themselves and be as politically and culturally neutral as possible. Sounds common to us all should help to connect people with each other; feet, the breath, the sea. Thanks to the friends of the world, including those whose presence can be heard in the composition, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation for donating studio time:

Mary Cassini

Joey Griffiths

Arthur McDevitt

Le Thi Kim

Le Tuan Hung

Father Pandeimon Monakos

Dorothee Pollicke

Hubert Schneider

Herbert Jercher, wind chime

Chancy Pelletier

Philip Island Clock Museum

Fernando Goncalves

Unknown Steel Drum Musician, Key West

Gary Havrillay

† we love you Charlie † 21.11.91

**Environments** recorded include

Fireworks, El Escorial, Spain

Ducks and plane, El Retiro, Madrid, Spain

Clocks, Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia

Bells, Munich, Germany

Bells and Chant, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Boats, Venice, Italy, and Villefranche, France

Myer Christmas Parade, Melbourne

Lift, Daimaru, Melbourne

School Children, Basle, Switzerland

Train and Feet, Flinders St. Station, Melbourne

People in autumn leaves, Princes Park, Carlton, Melbourne

Lullaby, Villefranche, France

Exposition 85, Lausanne

Edelweiss, Lausanne, Switzerland

Leonardo Da Vinci Medieval clock,  
composer's home, Brunswick, Melbourne  
Heartbeat, Barbie Saunders/Waters  
GPO Clock, Adelaide, South Australia

## **COVENTRY IN WEST BRUNSWICK** ROS BANDT & LE THI KIM

The prepared tapes include many people  
and friends.

### **Handbells**

The sound track of handbells for Coventry  
was composed and recorded by the bell  
ringers at Mowbray College Melton while  
I was composer in residence there. The  
graphic score of Mowbray Bells involved  
much free choice and decision-making while  
working together. The recording was made  
inside the school bell tower while the bell  
ringers walked around the outside of the  
cylindrical tower. This helped to augment the  
feeling of dominance imposed by the school  
bell, a symbol in the piece for all larger forms  
of authority. It is rung at pivotal points in the  
piece.

### **Environmental recordings**

This is a mix of recordings made in the  
autumn of 1991, involving many friends.  
Recording the autumn leaves in Princes Park  
was a celebration of friends meeting, young  
and old, east and west to share autumn at  
night, each other and life itself. The rolling  
in the leaves, the games, laughter, Kim's  
song and sweeping came about quite  
spontaneously. It was the last day I spent with

my mother and the falling leaves  
embraced it all.

The wire sounds of Zithers  
prepared with chopsticks and  
left to vibrate like the barricades  
placed over the burnt out church's  
windows can also be heard.

Thank you to Le and Kari, the other  
two members of the Back to Back  
Zithers for permission to mix some  
of this material in our duet. The  
Vietnamese song, At the City of  
the Ascending Dragon, Thinking of  
the Past was translated by Le Tuan  
Hung.



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assisted by the Australia  
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Banks Composer Fellowship awarded to Ros  
Bandt in 1990, a commission to compose  
Footsteps by Mary Cassini, and a recording  
grant to Move Records.

## **At the City of Ascending Dragon, Thinking of the Past**

**Thăng Long Hoài Cổ**  
by **Bà Huyện Thanh Quan**

Tạo hoá gây chi cuộc hí trường  
Đến nay thắm thoát mấy tinh sương  
Lối xưa xe ngựa hồn thu thảo  
Lầu cũ lâu đài bóng tịch dương

**Photography:** Ros Bandt, cover  
photography and portraits, Tim Dunlap,  
artist's portrait.

**Graphic design:** Ros Bandt and Martin  
Wright

"Many thanks to all the family, friends,  
associate artists and producers who have  
walked through this disc with me in many  
special ways. Thankyou to Martin Wright of  
Move Records for making it possible."

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