

rockpoolmirror



sandy evans & friends



rockpoolmirror

Some years ago – before the era of downloading music became commonplace – I would trek into Tracks, a small music shop located in the basement of Hobart's Sony Shop, to randomly fossick and raid the eclectic CD collection housed within. Through this process I discovered not only many of the treasures on the Tall Poppies label, but from within one of these CD cases I unearthed an insert that was to become a seed: an invitation to support future recordings. Such seeds only germinate when the conditions are right, and when I contacted Belinda Webster in August 2015 to ask whether she had any projects in the pipeline, she nominated Sandy Evans' work as a possibility. As I just happened – at this very same time – to have *Kapture*, Sandy's latest release, on heavy rotation in my car CD player, there was no decision for me to make: I had already been captured, not just by this recording, but also by her previous work with Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani and Sruthi Laya. Amongst the list of her potential projects, Sandy's **rockpoolmirror** held the most immediate appeal, especially for its

bounteous reciprocity: a CD combining musical responses, her own and those of her musical collaborators, to Belinda Webster's photography (particularly her passion for rock formations and their reflections in water), through a series of improvised duets within pre-composed themes.

Belinda's remarkable and strikingly beautiful photographs are taken from her own stomping ground, her familiar territory of the Shoalhaven Gorge and Lake Yarrunga ("large trees"), in the region of the Kangaroo Valley. It is not surprising that these photographs, so primeval and so resonant, have evoked such a wide range of responses – the intimate reflections, refractions and rirractions – from Sandy and her band of Accomplished Accomplices: Satsuki Odamura, Bobby Singh, Alon Ilisar, Adrian Sherriff, and Steve Elphick. The elemental resonances caught by Belinda's photography run deep; strike a chord across cultures and times, even, at least for me, back into the venerable cosmology of Yoga, whose Panchamahabhutas – the five great elements of Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space – seem encapsulated in the names and nature of the compositions,

such as Rock Water Temple and Dasavatara. Other tracks' titles hold within them the archetypes of various yogananas, the yoga postures, that are rooted in the sinuous inter-leavings of Vrksa, the Tree; or which swim with the primordial Matsyendra, Lord of the Fishes; or that flash through the adamantine expression and resolve of Virabhadra, the Warrior sprung from the matted locks of Siva.

But **rockpoolmirror** – notwithstanding the classical-sounding and concluding raga that is Rock Warrior II – is manifestly an album of contemporary music, a music that depends as much on modern technology for its existence as the clear rendering of Belinda's photographs also do. Only such technology allows the comparatively ancient voices, expounded in the running rhythms of Bobby Singh's tabla, reverberant in the ringing repercussions of Satsuki Odamura's koto, to cohabit the same envelope as Alon Ilisar's surprising sonic manipulations. And AirSticks! Coupled with the bouncy buoyancy of Steve Elphick's earthy bass, and the dexterous diversity (was that didgeridoo?) of Adrian Sherriff's

tromboning, these form the dialogue arrangements that slip and slide astride and aside Sandy's supple sax. But whilst the 12 tracks on this album can possibly be arranged in 479 001 600 unique offerings, it is the Heart – that dynamic duo of Hear & Art – and not technology, that has borne this final and singular fruit.

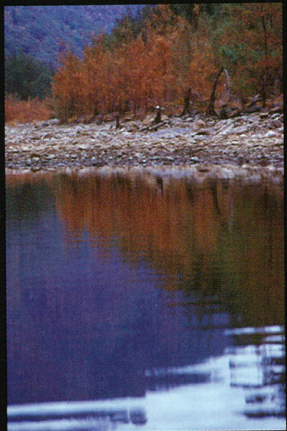
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Note from Sandy Evans

I have loved every minute of this project - the inspiration springing from Belinda's beautiful and evocative photographs, the intimate collaborative musical process with some wonderful musical friends, the warmth and energy of Richie B and his studio, Belinda's wisdom, passion and dedication - all the time gently and generously supported by Arjun's extraordinary spirit and belief.

Heartfelt thanks to Arjun, Belinda, Steve, Satsuki, Adrian, Alon, Bobby, Richie, Michael; and to my family, especially Tony and Jean.

Sandy Evans



1 Lake Yarrunga Colours

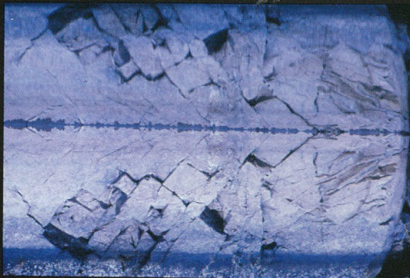
2 Lake Yarrunga Morning Mist



3 Cliff Edge

4 Dasavarata





5 Blue Gorge 2



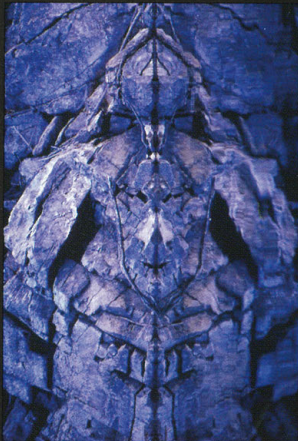
7 Tree Tangle

All photographic images taken by Belinda Webster 2002-2006 in Shoalhaven Gorge near Kangaroo Valley, often at dawn.

6 Curved Tree



8 Rock Warrior 1





9 Rock Water Temple

10 Stonefish



11 Lake Yarrunga

12 Rock Warrior 2





Steve Elphick: Double bass

Steve has been active on the Australian creative music scene since the late seventies and performed with many of the seminal groups of the 80s and 90s and into the 2000s, under the direction of such composers and improvisers as Phil Treloar, Roger Frampton, Mark Simmonds, James Greening, Andrew Robson and Sandy Evans, Tony Gorman, Peter Dasent, Bruce Cale and Miroslav Bukovsky. He has been an occasional member of the Australian Art Orchestra, and a was a long time member of the award winning groups Ten Part Invention and Mara!. Steve has also enjoyed over 36 years involvement with the Musica Viva in Schools Performance Project in various groups.

Recordings he has been involved in have won ARIA Awards.

Sandy Evans: Alto and tenor saxophones

Sandy Evans is an internationally renowned saxophonist and composer with a passion for improvisation and new music. She has played with and written for some of the most important groups in Australian jazz since the early 1980s and has toured extensively in Australia, Europe, Canada and Asia. She leads the Sandy Evans Trio and Sextet, and co-leads the internationally acclaimed Clarion Fracture Zone. She is a member of MARA!, Waratah, The Catholics, the Australian Art Orchestra (AAO), Ten Part Invention and australYSIS. With composer Tony Gorman she co-leads the acclaimed 8 piece ensemble GEST8. Her composition 'Testimony' about the life and music of Charlie Parker with poetry by Yusef Komunyakaa was published in 2013 by Wesleyan University Press.

Sandy has a keen interest in Indian classical music. She collaborates regularly with Sydney-based Indian musicians Sarangan Sriranganathan and Bobby Singh and recently released the CD 'Kapture', a tribute to South African freedom fighter Ahmed Kathrada. Her CD 'Cosmic Waves' featuring South Indian mridangam virtuoso Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani and Sruthi Laya is released in India on Underscore Records.

She has been awarded an Australia Council Fellowship, a Churchill Fellowship, an OAM, Bell Award For Australian Jazz

Musician of The Year 2003, a Young Australian Creative Fellowship, APRA Award for Jazz Composition of the Year and three ARIA Awards. Sandy's suite 'When The Sky Cries Rainbows', recorded for ABC Jazztrack won the AIR Award for Best Independent Jazz CD in 2011. Sandy has a PhD from Macquarie University where she received the Vice Chancellor's Commendation for Excellence. Sandy inaugurated the Jazz Improvisation Course for Young Women run annually by the Sydney Improvised Music Association. She is a Lecturer in Music at UNSW.

www.sandyevans.com.au

Alon Ilisar: Airsticks and Drums

Alon Ilisar is an Australian drummer, composer, sound designer and instrument designer. He is co-designer of a new interface for electronic percussionists called the AirSticks, using the instrument in projects such as The Hour, The Sticks, Tuka (from Thundamentals), Kirin J Callinan, Kind of Silence (UK), Velize (US), Cephalon (US), Aether (US), Voyager (US), Bondi Dreaming, Silent Spring, Drumonair, Monotreme (US) and Brian Campeau.

He has been heavily involved in theatre and film as drummer, composer and sound designer. His diverse projects include Belvoir Theatre's 'Keating! the Musical,'

Photo by Fanny Mazoyer



Sydney Theatre Company's 'Mojo,' Scottish production for deaf and hearing audiences 'Kind of Silence,' Meow Meow with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Alan Cumming, Jake Shears, Eddie Perfect, Tim Minchin, Circus Monoxide as musical director, Lance Horne, Zohar's Nigun, Aronas, Captain Kirkwood, The Colors Tribute Band, Gauche, Trigger Happy, Tango Saloon, Facemeat and Darth Vegas.

Alon is completing a PhD in instrument design through the University of Technology, Sydney's Creativity and Cognition Studios, under the supervision of Andrew Johnston. He recently completed a one-year artist residency at Brooklyn College's PIMA in New York working on new collaborations with musicians, visual artists and dancers such as Trevor Dunn, David Grubbs, Jim Black, Briggan Krauss, Kyle Sanna, Dana Lyn and Hannah Cohen of Neshamah Dance Company.

www.alonilsar.com



Satsuki Odamura: Koto and Bass Koto

Satsuki is a koto virtuoso, who has pioneered the teaching and performing of this ancient Japanese instrument in Australia.

She was taught at the Sawai Koto School of Music in Tokyo by legendary koto players Tadao and Kazue Sawai, gaining her Shihan or master license in 1985. Since her move to Australia in 1988, she has inspired a number of Australian composers to write for her instrument, including Peter Sculthorpe and Liza Lim.

Satsuki has worked with a number of musicians from other genres, including jazz, classical and other styles. She is a member of the world music group Waratah with Sandy Evans and Tony Lewis, the contemporary music ensemble Elision and the jazz fusion group GEST 8. Her performances in 2012 include the Four Winds Festival in Bermagui and "Tears of St. Peter" with the Song Company in Sydney.

She established the Koto Music Institute in 2007 to broaden and promote the appeal of koto music in Australia. Her koto ensemble, the Satsuki Odamura Koto Ensemble, based in Sydney, has performed widely around Australia and overseas.

She has recorded three of her own albums in collaboration with Australian musicians and, in the process, has found new and exciting contexts for this traditional Japanese instrument. Her most recent CD, 'Koto Dreaming', was released in 2006. In 2016 she was honoured to receive a special commendation from the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs for her contribution to strengthening friendship and goodwill between Australia and Japan.

www.satsukikoto.com.au



Adrian Sherriff: Bass trombone

Adrian regularly travels the globe, performing his own music and also studying the music and instruments of many cultures and places. His musical journeys have led him towards and between many musical traditions including; Afro-American, European, South Indian, Japanese and Experimental musics. He has been an integral performer and composer for many leading Australian ensembles including; the Australian Art Orchestra, Musiiki Oy, Blow, The Big One, This Ensemble, The Wide Alley, Andrea Keller's Bartok Project and the Bennett's Lane Big Band. Adrian has also been a full-time lecturer in the Bachelor of Music at Melbourne Polytechnic since 2007.

www.adriansherriff.com



Bobby Singh - tabla

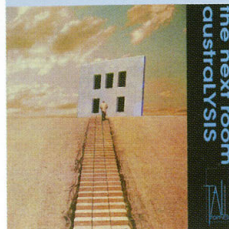
Bobby Singh is one of the most experienced tabla players in Australia, and highly respected in Australia's world music scene. Under the guidance of Aneesh Pradhan he was nurtured into a mature, internationally renowned tabla virtuoso. He performs regularly at Australian and international festivals including Womadelaide, Woodford Folk Festival,

Sydney Festival, World Fair Bonn, Perth International Arts Festival and Singapore Arts Festival. SBS made a documentary about his musical life 'Viva, I Belong Everywhere'. An ARIA award winner, he is well known for his work with artists including Circle of Rhythm, Rasa Duende, Jeff Lang, Maru Tarang, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, DHA, The Bird, Adrian McNeil, Djan Djan, Tony Gorman, John Butler Trio, Sandy Evans, Pandit Ashok Roy, Purbayan Chatterjee, Billy Cobham, Joseph Tawadros and Kim Sanders.

Sandy Evans on Tall Poppies



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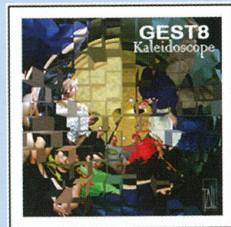


TP050
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TP109
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TP195
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everywhere



For further information go to
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rockpoolmirror

TP244

Sandy Evans: soprano & tenor saxophone, composer • Steve Elphick: double bass
Alon Ilisar: airsticks & drums • Satsuki Odamura: koto & bass koto
Adrian Sherriff: bass trombone • Bobby Singh: tabla

- 1 **Rock Water Temple** (Sandy Evans, Satsuki Odamura) [5:31]
- 2 **Lake Yarrunga Morning Mist** (Sandy Evans, Bobby Singh) [6:10]
 - 3 **Cliff Edge** (Alon Ilisar) [3:27]
 - 4 **Dasavatara** (Sandy Evans, Adrian Sherriff) [5:05]
 - 5 **Blue Gorge** (Alon Ilisar) [4:59]
 - 6 **Curved Tree** (Satsuki Odamura) [3:21]
 - 7 **Tree Tangle** (Sandy Evans, Steve Elphick) [6:22]
 - 8 **Rock Warrior** (Sandy Evans, Adrian Sherriff) [3:32]
- 9 **Lake Yarrunga Colours** (Sandy Evans, Satsuki Odamura) [6:40]
 - 10 **Stonefish** (Alon Ilisar) [3:55]
 - 11 **Lake Yarrunga** (Sandy Evans, Steve Elphick) [5:57]
 - 12 **Rock Warrior 2** (Sandy Evans, Bobby Singh) [5:53]