

Work comments for:

Kjell Samkopf

Burraborangian Stones

The Burraborang International Artists' Workshop (BIAW) consisted of 23 artists who worked and lived together in the Burraborang Valley, regional News South Wales, Australia, in the period of April 12 - 27, 2003. The group of artists included Indigenous and Australian artists, artists from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, USA, Finland and Norway.

Some artists made installations and art work in nature, while others did performances. Samkopf's contribution to the BIAW is a 79 minutes long CD. It consists of recordings of the Burraborang landscape with the subtle addition of the soft clicking of stones. The recordings reflect the natural changes in the soundscape made during the day and night in various weather conditions of wind, sun and rain. Pure nature sounds interact continuously with elements of culture; passing airplanes, distant motor bikes and the soft voices of the BIAW participants, all counting in their own native languages.

In his previous project, Samkopf had brought a vibraphone into the Norwegian mountains. This was a collaboration and co-production with the Dutch sonographer Floris van Manen, and as a result a CD was created called Music for Large Mountain and Vibraphone (2002). For the BIAW work, Samkopf wanted to use site specific objects found in nature as 'musical' instruments. He decided to use stones. As a contrast, he also included the sound of the voices of the participants. They all read numbers in their own native languages. A sequence of numbers, derived from the name 'Burraborang' was used as the structural base for the clicking of the stones and the reading. This gave a structural consistency to the work, and also as a way to organize the playing of performers who could not read music. Eleven players were selected to perform a group 'clicking' based on the number sequence (Burraborangian Stones I). The same number sequence was used in Burraborangian Stones II (single clicking by one player) and Burraborangian Stones III (double clicking by two players). Burraborangian Stones IV is a re-instrumentation of the last section of the CD Music for Large Mountain and Vibraphone; the same repeating rhythmical pattern, now played on different spots on a big hollow stone. It was the intention that the sound of the Burraborang landscape, the clicking of the stones and the reading of the numbers should have equal importance in the sound picture.

All sound material on this CD was recorded by Kjell Samkopf during The Burraborang International Artists' Workshop, using two DPA 4060 omni directional microphones and a Jecklin Disk. The sounds were prepared in Samkopf's studio in Norway. Then followed a five year period of editing and balancing. This was done by Kjell Samkopf and Floris van Manen at their own studios. Communication and data exchange was done over e-mail. After one year of pre-listening the final mastering was done by Floris van Manen in the Netherlands. No filtering or dynamic compression is applied.

Burrangorangan Stones consists of seven sections:

11 stones jumping into water

Burrangorangan Stones I

Burrangorangan Stones II

Burrangorangan Stones III

Plane passing with ants carrying away the microphones

Burrangorangan Stones IV

Landscape with participants (The 59 counts of the Burrangorang)

Total duration 79:00 minutes.

	Technical info
Title:	Burrangorangan Stones
Subtitle:	
Year of composition:	2003
Duration:	79 min.
Instrumentation:	Sonography
Commissioned by:	
World premiere:	September 9, 2011. Ultima Festival, Oslo
Music publisher:	
Recordings:	MERE Records, MERE 008