

TAPE LIBRARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDINGS\*

Bill Fontana

" music goes on all the time around us and is made  
audible by a musician "

Henry Cowell

\*work in progress

For the past 10 years, I have in one way or another, carried around a portable tape recorder, either in the form of an electronic device, or in the form of myself listening; listening as though there is a tape recorder with me, extending my listening to future moments of other listening.

Although many of these recordings can become the source material for large scale multi-channel sound sculptures and performance works, it seems that the original recordings would best be heard in a contemplative situation analogous to the original listening act.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Select tapes from the list that follows
- Listen through headphones, adjust volume as desired
- WHEN FINISHED, REWIND TAPES AND RETURN THEM TO THEIR CASE

While listening to these recordings, it is not necessary to separate oneself from existing sounds. The phrase "listening to" is a figure of speech; it would be more correct to say: "listening through".



TAPE #1

Side A

- Introductory Environmental Sound Program, produced for the Australian Broadcasting Commission's FM service.

Spoken introduction.

Galloping horses with distant electric trains amid ambient birds.

Horses passing on a paved surface.

Footsteps at Central Station, Sydney, during the rush hour.

A water sprinkler.

2 men repairing the hull of a large boat by means of hammering.

Kirribilli Ferry Wharf, Sydney Harbor, during the high tide.

A squeaky gate.

A computer operated automatic drafting pen.

2 printing presses operating simultaneously.

Baby frogs.

Slow baby frogs.

Slow silent conveyor belt from a sugar refinery.

Rope under tension on docked ferry, Circular Quay, Sydney Harbor.

Windows rattling on the Manly Ferry.

Chains rattling on the Manly Ferry.

Old wooden escalator in the Town Hall station, Sydney.

Fireworks, decays, Chinese New Years, San Francisco.

Side B

Distant New Years Eve, Sydney Harbor, 1976-77.

Distant New Years Eve, San Francisco Bay, 1978-79.

Quiet after big thunderstorm in Sydney.



TAPE # 2

Cycle 6 from "Space Between Sounds", San Francisco Museum of Modern Art,  
November 30, 1978:

Every so often a recording of sounds that happened somewhere is replayed between long silences...

Side A

Man whistling through the resonance of the Old Arcade, Cleveland.  
Topographical pounding near Sullivans Creek, Canberra.  
Hammering across the street at 21st. and Cahhanooga, San Francisco.  
Underground cable drone at Powell and Market streets, San Francisco.  
Slow moving iron ore train corssing drawbridge at the mouth of the  
Cuyahouga-River, Cleveland,  
Cow approaches while chewing grass north of Sydney.

Side B

Close up cicada pulse finishing, Melbourne.  
Close up refrigerator motor turning off, San Francisco.  
Close up surf under Golden Gate Bridge, San Franciso.  
Rhythnical steam exhaust, Totnes Devon.  
School children visiting Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne.  
Flock of magpies chasing a herd of sheep at twilight, off Newell Highway  
near Jerilderie.  
Swearing derelict walks across Prince Alfred Bridge, Gundagai.

TAPE # 3

Some California natural sounds, selections from recordings made for the Oakland Museum, Natural Sciences Department.

Side A

Swallows circling a dry creek.  
Twilight at Mono Lake.  
Nighthawks at Mono Lake.  
Owls at first light, Mono Lake.  
Owls at dusk, West Pinnacles.  
Owls at first light, Caswell State Park.  
Ravens with pigeons, West Pinnacles.  
Morning dove at twilight, Maillard Redwood Reserve.

Side B

Red breasted nut hatch, quail and other birds in the early morning at Stanislaus National Forest NW of Hetch Hetchy Reserve.  
Early summer morning in Savannah just north of Lee Vinning.  
Close up scrub jay by a pond.  
Along a rivers edge, late morning, Hunter Liggett Military Reserve.  
Along a rivers edge, late morning, off HW 182, near Nevada border.  
Frogs at night, near Digger Pines Campground, Mines Rd.  
Mating dance of male sage grouse with distant coyotes, near Crowley Lake.  
Distant coyotes in the middle of the night, near Crowley Lake.

TAPE # 4

Side A

From first light to dawn at West Pinnacles.

Side B

Australian Eclipse: 1976. This is a documentary recording made for the Australian Broadcasting Commission. It was made in a rain forest in the path of totality in coastal mountains south of Narooma New South Wales. This excerpt begins five minutes before totality and records the eclipse as a band of sudden quiet moving through the rain forest. After the eclipse passes, an airplane comes and goes while following the eclipse.



TAPE # 5

Side A

Windmill in a field.

Flagpole at Mt. Lick Observatory.

Side B

Windchimes outdoors on a quiet afternoon.

Bamboo tree in the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

TAPE # 6

Side A

Humming light pole in the outback.

P.G.&E resonating exhaust, Elk Horn Sleugh.

Side B

Windows banging in the wind, Sydney.

TAPE # 7

Side A

Rhythmic rattles in the Sydney Harbor Bridge.

Swansea Bridge near Wollongong (phase study: motion through space as a way of changing pitch).

Drawbridge along the Cuyahouga River, Cleveland.

Side B

Distant fog horns, San Francisco.

Distant fog horn, Pacific Grove.

Distant and very close fog horn, Pacific Grove.



TAPE # 8

Side A

Pile driver in front of the Hyatt Regency, San Francisco.

Distant pile driver at a distance from Sullivan's Creek, Canberra.

Distant pile driver closer to Sullivan's Creek/

Side B

Progression of rain.

Leaves being rubbed against a window by the wind.

TAPE # 9

Side A

- Blackbirds on a high voltage line.

Side B

- Blackbirds coming in to roost.

TAPE # 10

Side A

Complete thunderstorm in Sydney.

Side B

Pigeons at twilight on the roof of the music building, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

Footsteps at Myers Department store before Christmas.

Herald call on Little Lonsdale Street.

Herald call on Elizabeth Street near Flinders Station.

Herald call across the street.

Emu in Tidbinbilla Reserve.



TAPE # 11

Side A

Hollow steel pillar in the lower level of Flinders Street Station.

Famous coastal blow hole at Kiama.

Side B

Construction with wood inside of University Art Museum, U.C. Berkeley.

Car droppings.

TAPE # 12

Side A

Fog horns near the Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco Bay.

Side B

2 blow holes in a floating concrete ferry wharf at Kirribilli, Sydney Harbor.

TAPE # 13

Side A

Swimmers passing in a pool.

Widely spaced surf, Byron Bay New South Wales.

Fast moving surf along Werri Beach, south of Kiama New South Wales.

Side B

Close up cricket by a hot spring.

Babbling hot spring.

A larger babbling hot spring.

An even larger babbling hot spring.



TAPE # 14

Side A

Phasing stream in the Snowy Mountains.

Phasing waterfall at Mt. Tamalpais.

Phasing surf at Byron Bay.

Side B

Phasing florescent light above a dripping faucet next to  
a refrigerator.

Widely spaced microphones along the Sacramento River.

TAPE # 15

Side A

Fork lift pulses, Oakland.

People walking past, Fitzroy Gardens.

Squeaky swings, Fitzroy Gardens.

Dodgem at Luna Park.

Voices at Luna Park.

Side B

People on horses in small canyon.

Children playing on the street, Melbourne.

Rhythmical stream under a small bridge.

TAPE # 16

Side A

Enchanted Garden, Millswyn St, South Yarra .

Opague birds with occasional wind chimes.

Side B

Bird duet.

Wall repair out of front windwo, Kirribilli.



TAPE # 17

Side A

Out of front window, Kirribilli.

Side B

Out of front window, The Lizard.

Distant garbage truck out of side window, San Francisco.



TAPE # 18

Side A

Baby and mama sleeping.

Two flag poles at once.

Tweety birds in a field.

Side B

Complete cycle: drawbridge lowers, iron ore train passes, drawbridge rises, end of Cuyahouga River.

TAPE # 19

Side A

Resonance of the Old Arcade in Cleveland.

Resonance of the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda.

Side B

Roof of the Castlemaine Sports Center.

Crows and single bell bird north of Sydney.