

OWL 13: "M is for OWL" (Ferruginous Pygmy Owl)

Themes include Marxism, Memories, Maniacal Musicianship, Mechanical Manipulation, Mixing and Matching, Motorik Mumbling, Multi-discipinarians and.... well....playing music I like, I guess.

1) Theme song: "The Owl" by Silver Apples from "The Garden" on Bully Records.

2) "La Classe Operaia Va In Paradiso (The Working Class Goes to Heaven)" by Ennio Morricone, from the 1971 film by Elio Petri. This track was taken from the 1977 RCA compilation "Le Colonne Sonore Di Ennio Morricone"

Next, tributes to four of my favorite musicians, played by some of my favorite musicians.

3) "Shuffle Boil", a Thelonious Monk tune covered by John Zorn from "That's the Way I Feel Now", the 1984 A&M Monk tribute album produced by Hal Willner. During the 80's and 90's, Willner put together a number of eclectic tribute albums bringing together musicians from all over the musical spectrum. Here Zorn is joined by, among others, Arto Lindsay on guitar and vocals. OWL listeners have also heard Lindsay as a member of the Lounge Lizards in "L is for OWL", and as a member of DNA in "D is for OWL".

4) Next, a tribute within a tribute: "Jump Monk", a Charles Mingus tune from the 1992 Hal Willner Mingus tribute album "Weird Nightmare", featuring, among others, Bill Frisell and Gary Lucas (see "L is for OWL") on guitars. The album is notable for it's use of instruments invented by American composer Harry Partch.

5) "Ornette (alternate)" from the Roscoe Mitchell Sextet's 1966 lp "Sound" out on the Delmark label. This is essentially an early line-up of what would become the Art Ensemble of Chicago.

6) "Space is the Place" a Sun Ra composition interpreted by the great guitarist Roger Miller, a founding member of Boston heroes Mission of Burma. This cut is taken from his 1988 Forced Exposure lp "Oh".

7) Sticking with guitarists named Miller: "Deploration" by the great guitarist Donald Miller, a founding member of noise improv band Borbetomagus. This track is from his 1995 Audible Hiss double lp "Little Treatise on Morals".

8) Also dealing in the dynamics of silence: "Mother and Son", by another great guitarist, Loren Mazzacane, aka Guitar Roberts (see "G is for OWL"), from his 1993 Road Cone single of the same name.

Your Host

Next, we travel to France and take a class at the Paris Conservatoire

9) "La Riviere Endormie", a sound collage from 1954 by Darius Milhaud found on the 2004 compilation "Archives GRM, vol. 1".

10) Moving on to a colleague of Milhaud's at the Paris Conservatoire, we heard "Oraison", a piece composed for the Ondes Martenot, a relative of the theramin, by Olivier Messiaen. This was taken from the 2000 Ellipsis Arts compilation "Ohm: The Early Gurus of Electronic Music".

11) "Hornpipe", a 1967 piece by Gordon Mumma for waldhorn, valve horn and live "cyber-sonic" processing of Mumma's own design. This piece is found on the 2002 compilation cd "Gordon Mumma: Live-Electronic Music" out on John Zorn's Tzadik label.

12) "Shadow Sculptures" from 1974 by Poughkeepsie's own Joe McPhee (on trumpet etc.) and John Snyder (on synthesizer).

Your Host

More electronics, but with a beat:

13) "Dancing&Singing" by Monoton from the 1982 lp "Monotonproduct07", reissued on Desire Records.

14) "Feedback 66" by Conny Planck and Dieter Moebius from the 1980 Sky Records lp "Rastakraut Pasta", reissued in 2010 on Bureau B records. For those paying attention, Moebius has appeared on OWL twice previously: as 1/2 of Cluster in "C is for OWL" and as 1/3 of Harmonia in H is for OWL.

And a set by artist/musicians:

15) "La Battaglia di Adrianopoli" a piece commemorating the Battle of Adrianople in World War 1 by Futurist founder Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, who was a war correspondent at the time. This was taken from the 1988 Sub Rosa compilation "Futurism and DaDa Reviewed".

16) "One Thousand Cycles", a 1981 piece by multi-disciplinary artist Christian Marclay made by physically cutting up lps and rejoining the fragments. This was taken from the 1997 Atavistic compilation "Christian Marclay: Records".

17) "Chinese Unpopular Song" by Machinefabriek, aka Dutch artist/musician Rutger Zuydervelt. This from a 2006 self-released cd-r.

18) "Digesting War" by Colorado art and music collective Mnemonists from their 1984 Recommended Records lp "Horde". Mnemonists went on to become Biota, heard here in "B is for OWL".

19) "Helen Fordsdale" by New York No Wave luminaries Mars. Listeners will perhaps remember Mars member Sumner Crane from his opera "John Gavanti, played here in full in "G is for OWL".

Your Host

Next, we enter a world of melody and song:

20) "Hasabe" by Ethiopian musician Ayalew Mesfin, found on the compilation "Ethiopiques 8: Swinging Addis" on Buda Musique.

21) "Hidegen Fújniak A Szelek (Cold Winds Are Blowing)" performed by Hungarian folkies Muzikas from their 1988 Hannibal Records lp "The Prisoner's Song". Listeners may remember a different version by the Dutch band The Ex from "E is for OWL".

22) "Travelling", a 1973 piece by Meredith Monk recorded for her 1981 ECM Records album "Dolmen Music".

Returning to Monk and Mingus:

23) *Jackieing" by Thelonious Monk. Written for his neice, this version is from 1971 and found on the 1988 Black Lion cd "Thelonious Monk: The London Collection, vol. 1"

24) "Original Faubus Fables", by Charles Mingus from the 1989 Candid Productions cd "Charles Mingus Presents Charles Mingus". The piece refers to Orval Faubus, segregationist governor of Arkansas from 1955 to 1967, who called out the National Guard to prevent the integration of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Recorded in 1960, Mingus chose to treat the studio recording as if it were a live performance, with mood lighting and announcements between songs. This version of the Faubus, with extended lyrics, was the way Mingus intended the piece to be.

Your Host

Next, some African sax:

25) "Shellela" by Ethiopian saxophone giant, Getatchew Mekurya, heard here previously playing with the Ex in "E is for OWL". This track was taken from the 2003 Buda Musique compilation, "Ethiopiques 14: Negus of Ethiopian Sax".

26) "MRA" by "Chris McGregor's Brotherhood of Breath" from the self-titled album released on cd by Akarma Records . This track from 1970 was written by South African saxophonist Dudu Pukwana who has appeared here previously with his band Assagai in "A is for OWL", and playing with the Johnny Dyani Quartet in "D is for OWL". Chris McGregor was one of the first bandleaders to lead integrated groups in South Africa.