

OWL 18: "R is for OWL" (Mexican Spotted Owl) Playlist

Starting us off as it does every show was our theme song: "The Owl" by Silver Apples from their album "The Garden" on Bully Records, here in a greatly abbreviated form. Responsible for that rude interruption was "Beyond the Valley of a Day in the Life", a 1977 tape collage of Liverpool's fab four by Louisiana's fab four, the Residents, released as a single by Ralph Records.

That was followed by two tracks of Jewish ecstatic mysticism: first, a transcription of part one of Lou Reed's "Metal Machine Music" by German chamber ensemble Zeitkratzer. This version, the first full instrumental version, was released in 2014 by karlrecords. That was followed by part 2 of Steve Reich's setting of the psalms, "Tehillim", found on the 1982 ECM lp of the same name. Next, some lowan soul music from Arthur Russell. Next, we hear a mini-retrospective of the work of the great cellist, composer producer and man about town (NYC by way of Iowa), Arthur Russell, an O.W.L. favorite. First, from his band the Flying Hearts, we heard "What It's Like", a 1977 recording found on the 2009 Rough Trade double lp, "Love is Overtaking Me". That was followed by "Tree House" from the 2005 Audika reissue of the 1986 Upside Records release, "The World of Echo".

Next was one of Russell's forays into dance music, this time as "Dinosaur L". The track, recorded in 1979 with vocals by Jill Kroesen, is "Go Bang! (Thank You Arthur Edit)", compiled on the 2011 four lp box set "24->24 Music: The Definitive Arthur Russell" from Sleeping Bag Records. After that was "Keeping Up" from 1988 compiled on the 2013 Arc Light Editions double lp "Arthur Russell: Another Thought". Returning to the lp "Love is Overtaking Me" we heard "Eli" which was recorded in 1974. And closing the set, we heard a selection from "Instrumentals, Volume 1", recorded in 1974 and compiled on the 2006 Audika compilation "First Thought Best Thought." Next, bidding Arthur farewell, we take another mystical trip, this time to California.

Ocean-cleansed and sundazed, we return. The first of our two California tracks was by French electro-acoustic composer Michel Redolfi. While living in California from 1977-1983, Redolfi began to make music that attempted to capture his experience of the Pacific Ocean. For this piece, "Immersion", Redolfi began his experiments with the ways in which water affects sound waves. In this case, he played a recording of his composition "Pacific Tubular Waves" under water at different depths and re-recorded it with a hydrophone. These field recordings were then mixed with studio recordings of Redolfi playing a Synclavier. And that was followed by the great musical mystic, Terry Riley, with an edit of his 1968 piece "Poppy Nogood", here found on the 2005 Ellipsis Arts compilation "Ohm: The Early Gurus of Electronic Music."

Next things get complicated as we revisit some highlights of previous shows through the prism of the current one. Starting us off was the Mid-Hudson's own Roswell Rudd, playing "One Twilight", a piece by "N is for O.W.L.'s" Herbie Nichols. This comes to us from Roswell's 1997 CIMP cd "The Unheard Herbie Nichols, Vol. 1." Next, Roswell is joined by a Quintet featuring the late, great Steve Lacy (L is for O.W.L.) on soprano sax. Here they play "Friday the 13th", a composition by "M is for O.W.L.'s Thelonious Monk, found on the 1983 Soul Note cd "Regeneration", originally released on vinyl in 1983.

Passing the baton to the Rova Saxophone Quartet, we heard their version of "Sidelines" from their Steve Lacy tribute album "Favorite Street", out originally on Black Saint in 1984. Back to Roswell Rudd, we heard "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?" with Sheila Jordon ("J is for O.W.L.") on vocals, from the 1995 Black Lion cd reissue of the 1975 Arista lp "Flexible Flyer". Moving on, we heard two collaborative duos, each featuring the German experimental guitarist and instrument maker, Hans Reichel. First, from the 1989 FMP cd "Angel Carver, we heard Reichel is a duet with the great improvising cellist, Tom Cora (you guessed it, "C is for O.W.L."). We then heard the first section of Reichel's duet with Fred Frith (yes, "F is for O.W.L."), "Stop Complaining", found on the 1991 FMP cd "Stop Complaining/Sundown: Hans Reichel Duets with Fred Frith and Kazhisa Uchihashi" Taking us out, some Egyptian jazz by Salah Ragab and the Cairo Jazz Band, followed by some more Metal Machine Music, this time by the master himself.