

OWL 19: "S is for OWL" Playlist

Set #1: You just heard a set of guitar heroics, beginning with the genius of free guitar, Sonny Sharrock. We heard "Kula-Mae", a track from his 1986 Enemy Records solo lp "Guitar". Next we heard from "C is for OWL"'s Eugene Chadbourne, this time with his trio Shockabilly. The track was a cover of Hendrix's "Are You Experienced?" with Mark Kramer on bass and David Licht on drums, and it can be found on their first album, 1983's "Earth vs. Shockabilly" on Rough Trade. Next was Phoenix, Arizona's hometown heroes, Sun City Girls, featuring the guitar heroics of Sir Richard Bishop, with "Souvenirs from Jangare" from the double 7" "Three Fake Female Orgasms", released in 1991 on the Majora label. Following that were the mandolin stylings of U. Srinivas. We heard "Gajavadhana" from his 1994 Real World cd "Rama Sreerama". That was followed by Sonic Youth and guests performing a 1971 Christian Wolff piece, "Burdocks", from their 1999 double cd "Goodbye 20th Century" out on their own SYR label. Joining them on this piece were "M is for OWL"'s Christian Marclay, "O is for OWL"'s Jim O'Rourke, Takehisa Kosugi of the Taj Mahal Travellers, William Winant, and Christian Wolff himself. And we closed the set with "Little Birdie" by bluegrass pioneers, the Stanley Brothers, here found on the 2003 Revenant cd "Stanley Brothers, Earliest Recordings: The Complete Rich-R-Tone 78s (1947-1952).

Set #2: We started that seguilicious set with "Happy Song" from a collaboration between Sun Araw, aka Cameron Stallones, M. Geddes Gengras and the legendary Jamaican vocal group The Congos. The resulting 2012 album is called "Sun Araw and M. Geddes Gengras meet The Congos: Icon Give Thank", and can be found on the FRKWYS label. That bled into "Fire Escape" by the polymorphous Massachusetts collective, Sunburned Hand of the Man, from their 2007 cd "Fire Escape" on Small Town Supersound. Next was 11.1 from the surprisingly titled "11" by Norwegian avant-monsters, Supersilent. Dovetailing with that was "Cotocz" by French avant-punk band Soixante Etages from their 1990 lp "Heatproof Cauldrons for Wanglers" on the 33 REVPERMI label. Finally we heard from the mysterious Steve Stain, with "Lucretia Borgia" from his, I think only, lp "The Brain Feels No Pain" from 1986 on New Alliance Records.

Set #3: We started off that last set with "Mole Machine" by those monsters of 70s Canadian rock, Simply Saucer, from their posthumous, and only, album, "Cyborgs Revisited". We segued to our next artists, Soft Machine, who gave us "Moon in June", performed and recorded for John Peel's BBC radio show "Top Gear" in 1969. The track is collected on the 2003 Hux Records double cd "Soft Machine, BBC Radio, 1967-1971". We ended the set with some more keyboard madness from Sun Ra and a reduced Arkestra. The track is called "Disco 3000", and was recorded live in Milan in 1978. It can be found on the Art Yard double cd "Sun Ra Disco 3000: The Complete Milan Concert 1978". Coming up next we hear the merry voices of children singing, courtesy of Karlheinz Stockhausen.

Set #4: In that last set we heard "Gesang der Jünglinge", Karlheinz Stockhausen's pioneering mid 50's work. That was followed by "Willdawg" by O.W.L. favorites, the pioneering alt-country band Souled American, from their 1990 Rough Trade lp "Around the Horn". And as a parting gift, I present a pair of Silver Apples. First, the edited version of Part one of Morton Subotnik's "Silver Apples of the Moon", found on the 2000 Ellipsis Arts compilation "Ohm: The Early Gurus of Electronic Music". Coming out of that we will hear "Program" a piece by our theme song auteurs, Silver Apples, from their 1968 debut lp on Kapp Records. And closing the set will be an all-time O.W.L. favorite, Bahaman guitar genius Joseph Spence (covered by Tom Cora in "C is for OWL"). The track is "Lay Down My Brother" from the 2009 Mississippi Records reissue of the 1972 Arhoolie album "Good Morning Mr. Walker".