

BUTTERFLIES IN THE
LABYRINTH
OF SILENCE

GUITAR MUSIC OF
GEORGES RAILLARD

David William Ross guitar

Notes by Georges Raillard

SHELLS ON THE BEACH (1999)

In their simple, repetitive form these seven musical gems evolved out of improvisations. They remind me of the beautiful seashells left by the waves on the beach in Punta Umbria in Southwestern Spain where I spend some weeks every summer.

NIGHT WAVES (1999)

I composed this piece one summer at the seaside. I hear the waves beating the beach, distant voices cheerfully celebrating, crickets chirping. But I also think of what I don't hear or see, in the dark quiet of balmy nights.

PACEMAKER (1999)

A steady pedal point in F sharp throbs along the whole composition. The music doesn't sound hard nor is it cheerless, but the monotonous rhythm gives it a merciless character, like a pacemaker.

TO PILAR (2000)

Pilar liked a melody I was playing and I promised her to dedicate to her a composition with this melody as a chorus. In the middle of the composition a "sibling" of the chorus melody appears, and it is like opening a door to another musical landscape.



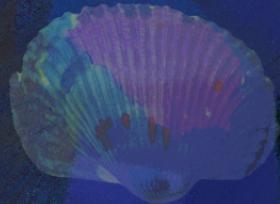
THE LABYRINTH OF SILENCE (2000)

*Silence does not conceal
that it is Silence.
Because only by speaking
can Silence be concealed.*

*Silence says
that it says Nothing.
Because only in speaking
can Nothing be said.*

*Silence means
unspoken Words.
For only in speaking
can Words fail the speaker.*

– Georges Raillard, 2000



SUMMER EVENING AT THE RHINE (2000)

A walk by the Rhine one summer evening in Basel, Switzerland. Mild temperatures, beautiful sunset, relaxed people enjoying their leisure time, and the murmuring waters of the river; waters coming from far and with still a long way to flow, these steady, calm waters you could watch flowing by for hours.

BUTTERFLY (2001)

Some people seem to flutter through life like butterflies, from flower to flower. They pursue some fantastic goal but soon get weary of it. But while they are at work they show such joy, intensity and enthusiasm that around them all are stimulated by their creative drive.

THREE CHILD'S PLAYS FOR SELINA (2003)

These three short and simple pieces were a Christmas present for my nine year old goddaughter who had begun playing the violin. Her father, a violinist himself, transcribed them for two violins and together they performed them at auditions.

DANCE OF THE SHADOWS (2004)

With its stamping bass rhythm and shrill accents, this composition shows an almost heavy metalish character, though its delicate, melodic parts form unexpected contrasts. The title reflects the strong rhythms and the dark ambience of the composition.

MEASURING CLOUDS (2005)

Two delicate compositions held together by their airy character. The second movement with its four tone obstinato, with shifting harmonies and counterpoints, gives the composition its title.

HE BURST OUT LAUGHING (2006)

Mr. Monza was straying through the streets looking for the meaning of life. In a backstreet he saw a man taking a scrap of paper out of a trash can. This is the meaning of life, the man said. A mathematical formula was written on the piece of paper. Mr. Monza copied it into his notebook and hurried exultantly back to the main street. He sprayed the formula on house walls and told all the people: This is the meaning of life. The news spread, the formula headlined newspapers and was the main focus of television news shows and even parliamentary debates. But then a woman said to Mr. Monza: she didn't believe in the formula because she didn't understand it! He was perplexed. While everyone was still celebrating the discovery of the meaning of life, Mr. Monza, crestfallen, walked back to the backstreet with the trash can. He saw the can was full of scraps of papers, each showing a different mathematical formula. Mr. Monza burst out laughing and kicked the can away. (after: Georges Raillard, Herr Monza oder Herr Monza, Cologne 2002).

PATIO (2008)

Behind walls and columns, in the inner space with coloured floor tiles, flower pots, and a small water fountain in the centre, the rush, noise and heat of the outside world are a distant reminiscence; peace and serenity reign. But the half-shade may also conceal whispering, secrets and conspiracies.

BUTTERFLIES IN THE LABYRINTH OF SILENCE



GEORGES RAILLARD was born in Basel, Switzerland, in 1957. There he completed primary and secondary studies, as well as studies in foreign languages at university. From 1983 to 2001 he lived in Madrid, Spain, working as a language teacher, translator, and writer. Since 2001, he has worked as a writer, composer, translator, and archivist mainly in Basel, though still spending longer periods of time in Spain looking for inspiration.

From 1973 to 1978 he took private classes on classical guitar and composition with Elfin F. Vogel. Since 1974 he has composed more than 50 pieces for guitar and has published them on his website. His composition *Disintegration* won the second prize of the composition competition at the Festival Claxica 2010 in Castel d'Aiano, Italy, the first prize not being assigned.

In German he has published short stories, articles, and reviews in magazines and anthologies in German-speaking countries, as well as five books with short stories.

www.georges-raillard.com

DAVID WILLIAM ROSS is a guitarist with diverse musical influences. Though trained in classical music, he has extensive working experience in jazz and popular idioms. He frequently appears as a solo artist but is a regular collaborator in chamber settings and in jazz combos. His style is unique, particularly in the improvisatory realm where he fuses jazz and classical sensibilities into a richly personal aesthetic. He has also written and arranged music for a variety of instruments and ensembles, often combining written scores with extensive guided or free improvisation. His works often find inspiration with visual artists and dance choreographers with whom he collaborates to create work that is organic and piece specific. New music and works by contemporary composers also figures prominently in his musical activities, regularly presenting and premiering new work by composers from around the world. For more information please visit www.davidrossguitarist.com.



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Recording Session Engineer Adam Weiss

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David William Ross guitar

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| 01 | SHELLS ON THE BEACH | 10:36 |
| 02 | NIGHT WAVES | 5:43 |
| 03 | PACEMAKER | 2:27 |
| 04 | TO PILAR | 7:35 |
| 05 | THE LABYRINTH OF SILENCE | 6:11 |
| 06 | SUMMER EVENING AT THE RHINE | 5:08 |
| 07 | BUTTERFLY | 5:09 |
| 08 | THREE CHILD'S PLAYS FOR SELINA | 5:36 |
| 09 | DANCE OF THE SHADOWS | 3:28 |
| 10 | MEASURING CLOUDS | 7:31 |
| 11 | HE BURST OUT LAUGHING | 8:20 |
| 12 | PATIO | 5:39 |

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