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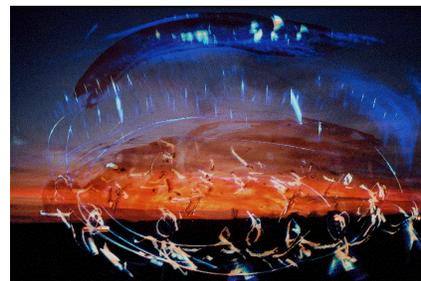


## **Ritual and Memory: Music & Video by Stephen Travis Pope—2 CDs + 1 DVD**



*Ritual and Memory* is not so much a survey of Stephen Pope's music as it is a reframing in an unfolding series of sound and visual dreamscapes. This music invokes the greater self that communicates with us in dreams, as well as the rituals through which we communicate with that greater self. [...] Stephen's music persists at the edge of a self-inventive technology featuring myriad new programming languages and sound synthesizers, but his engineering is a feat of *bricolage* that never loses its sense of human (and angelic) connection, whether through the voice in speech and song or the body in dance.

And how about those videos? The DVD tour of Stephen's scores—surprisingly readable even for the uninitiated—brings its own intellectual pleasure, as well as intimations of a synesthesia that is fully plumbed in the graphical score of *WAKE* and above all in *Eternal Dream: A Ritual*. Comparisons to *Koyaanisqatsi* and its brethren are inevitable here, but, by way of equally remarkable contrast, the underlying tone of Stephen's work is always uplifting, though never superficially so.



*Leur Songe de la Paix*

Even the terrifying aspects of Stephen's angels are cathartic, resonating the dream from or to which we are trying to awaken with good vibrations. Are these angels and we listeners but two sides of the same coin, like waves and particles or form and emptiness? When we listen to Stephen's music, we get a glimpse—or take a sounding—of the answers to these questions. (excerpt from the Program Notes by Tom Lane)

### Sample Reviews

*Bat out of Hell* seems to learn its behavior from itself, the melodic/rhythmic material organically evolving like a good improviser. (Larry Austin in *Perspectives of New Music*)

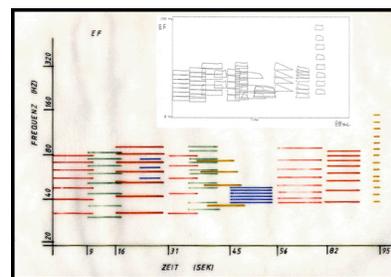
*Eternal Dream* is a musical *tour de force*. (Brigitte Robindore)

*Kombination XI* transcends "sound as product demonstration" and creates quite an atmosphere. Texturally rich (something lacking in much computer music) and programmatically intriguing. (Jim O'Rourke in *Your Flesh*)

*Leur Songe de la Paix* is riveting! (Tom Lane)

The mesmerizing *Bat out of Hell* deals with the details of a purposefully limited sound palette. [...] It invites the listener's close attention and in return offers an intimate *pas de deux*. (Ira Mowitz in *Computer Music Journal*)

I am consistently drawn in to explore the sound and feeling world of *Kombination XI*. This piece works both as music and as ritual. (Craig Harris in *Leonardo*)



*WAKE*

## Package Contents: 2 CDs + 1 Music/Video DVD

### CD 1: Music for Ritual Places—5 pieces, 19 tracks

*Kombination XI (A Ritual Place for Processed Voices)*—14:25. Slow quiet ritual text-sound based on a poem by Helmut Heissenbüttel. Vienna/Palo Alto, 1978-90

*Bat out of Hell: Stories for Dance*—5:20. Ballet divertimento in 2 sections. Salzburg, 1983

*Leur Songe de la Paix (Their Dream of Peace)*—10:34. Concerto, setting of a text by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Santa Barbara, 2001/02

*Day*—3 excerpts, 10:40. Algorithmic improvisation for jazz piano. Palo Alto, 1986/87

4: *Ballet Music for My Siblings*—22:42. Minimalist ballet based on a series of children's dances; digital synthesizer and *musique concrète* sounds. Paris/Salzburg, 1980-82

### CD 2: Dunkelkammergespräche—3 pieces, 22 tracks,

*WAKE: Ten Tangents for Dance*—17:09. Quiet hymns for organ. Toronto/Vienna, 1979/80

*Requiem Aeternam Dona Eis*—13:20. Requiem for bells; 3 images and 3 variations on *Dies Irae*, *Dies Illa*; *Lux Aeterna*; and *Libera me*. Salzburg/Munich, 1984/85

*Paragraph 31: All Gates Are Open*—30:02. National anthem for KREV in an invented language, based on the heroic poem by M. v. Hausswolff & L. Elgren. Amsterdam/Stockholm, 1991-93

### DVD: Video Collaborations—4 pieces

*WAKE*—10 chapters, 19:30. Animated score by S. T. Pope. Toronto/Vienna, 1979/80

*Leur Songe de la Paix*—3 chapters, 13.34. Text by Martin Luther King, Jr., video by R. Lane Clark. Santa Barbara, 2004

*Eternal Dream: A Ritual*—6 chapters, 26:20. Affirmative symphonic pandemonium for voices and drums, Santa Barbara/Berlin/Havana, 2000-02. Video by S. T. Pope based on sources by Erik Pauser and Johan Söderberg. Santa Barbara, 2003-05

*Tour/Sampler of STP's Music*—15 chapters, 15:00. Excerpts from 9 pieces with visual scores and software tool images. Santa Barbara, 2006



*Eternal Dream*

## About the Composer

Stephen Travis Pope (b. New Jersey, USA, 1955) studied at Cornell University, the Vienna Music Academy, and the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, Austria. He has worked as a composer, software engineer, performing musician, and social and spiritual activist. His research interests are music representation languages, digital audio signal processing, and distributed programming. He has realized his musical works at studios in America (Toronto, Stanford, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, Havana) and Europe (Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Salzburg, Vienna, Berlin). His music is available from Centaur Records, Perspectives of New Music, Touch Music, SBC Records, Disc0 Records, and the Electronic Music Foundation. Stephen has lived in Santa Barbara, California since 1995.

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