

Memory Pages

Paul Lansky

From the liner notes of *More Than Idle Chatter*:

“We've all had the experience of having a sound, smell, image, or taste, trigger a long buried memory so vividly that it almost seems as if we are reliving the experience. It is such a remarkable sensation that it inevitably moves us deeply, but we can never share it, only marvel, as Proust did when the taste of a madeleine flooded his consciousness with memories of Combray. It's often a painful experience as we feel the permanence of the loss of the past, and are stunned by how real our perception is, despite this irretrievable loss. *Memory Pages* is a musical excursion into this realm. The text is comprised of a few personal memories my wife Hannah MacKay and I have had, along with thoughts about remembering and the passage of time. At the piece's end, and the end of this disc as well, an odd setting of a well-known Australian folksong rings down the curtain, much like the titles at the end of a film, giving the listener a chance to reflect, and make the transition back to the theater lobby.”

Important sound elements:

- Insect noises
- Female & Male recitation of text
- Comb filtering, granular synthesis
- Long tones
- Marimba-like samples

Memory Pages was produced using a NeXT computer and the programming language Cmix.

Loose Structural Outline:

0:20-1:12 / Hannah MacKay recitation (with minimal comb filter)

1:40 / long tones enter

2:01-2:22 / Hannah MacKay recitation of specific memory (with increased comb filtering; long tones cut out)

2:55-3:13 / Hannah MacKay “imagine the sound...remember the sound” (with less comb filtering than the previous section)

3:15 / long tones enter again

3:33-3:50 / Paul Lansky recitation (increased comb filter effect and marimba samples matching pitches of vocal effects)

3:55-4:26 / “solo” marimba

4:26-5:01 / Hannah MacKay recitation (with comb filter and other pitched effect)

5:09-5:24 / Hannah MacKay recitation (with comb filter)

5:27-5:46 / slower, lower solo marimba

5:47-6:05 / Paul Lansky recitation (comb filter and extensive pitched effects—marimba samples and some bells)

6:10-6:26 / Hannah MacKay recitation (pitched effects so extensive that the words are unintelligible)

6:28-6:46 / Hannah MacKay recitation (words are intelligible again; extensive use of bell samples)

6:49-7:11 / Hannah MacKay recitation “it was the same thing again...” (with only comb filter)

7:11 / long tones enter

8:52-11:53 / Hannah MacKay recitation (very sparse...mostly long tones)

11:25-11:56 / recitation (effects make the reader unclear...could be both PL and HM)

11:57-13:05 / continued recitation with more periodic rhythmic effects; far beyond the realm of spoken word