

Dreams and Ballads

by Percival

The ballads in *Dreams and Ballads* are *Hearsay* and *Life is a Field* (or: *Until One Day*). They are sung by Percival and a Swedish actress called Soría – a name she used during a short period at the beginning of her career. The ballads are poems (songs) published in Percival's first book in English, *Words*.

In *Hearsay*, that could also be called *Soon is the Day*, there is a slight allusion to a passage in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*, a book that has always inspired Percival in his own work in progress. You can read more about that in his book *Time Plays*, published in 1999 and 2000 by Art Distribution, Askrikegatan 13, SE-115 57, Stockholm.

The songs performed in a minimalistic way are easy to understand and still riddles as if they were dealing with deep secrets within the history of humankind.

Innovation is a meditative and innovative prelude to the longest piece on this disc – *Dreams*. And *Dreams* is – as you soon will realize – a shamanistic journey into the deepest recesses of man's mind. You just have to relax, forget about time and start a discovery of an inner continent where you might hear your own voices behind the drumming and the xylophone sounds. It could be compared to a quest in a dream land where you perhaps can find a key that opens a door to a consciousness man needs for his survival on planet earth.

Before creating *Dreams* the composer was experimenting with certain rhythms until he finally found the keynote and the rhythms he needed in order to investigate the dream world.

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Running time: 40:40.

1. *Hearsay* or *Soon is the Day* (2:47) – Drum: Percival. Song: Soría and Percival. Produced at Art Distribution's studio.

2. *Life is a Field* (1:47) – Drum: Percival. Song: Soría and Percival. Produced at Art Distribution's studio.

3. *Innovation* (3:26) – Metallophone: Nadia and Leila, young musicians at Art Distribution's studio. Drums: Percival.

4. *Dreams* (32:32) – Xylophone and electroacoustic sounds: Percival. Tin barrels: Christer Nygren and Percival. Technical realization: Thomas Hammar, EMS (Electroacoustic Music in Sweden).

Note that *Hearsay* was first heard on the Swedish Radio during a programme where a short novel by Percival describing the time of Pharaoh Akhenaten was read.

Dreams was first performed on the Swedish Music Radio (P2) at the end of August 1986.

CD box front-photo: Percival at Lindos, Rhodes, October 1996. Back-photo: the island of Fuerteventura, 1996. Music, photos, and texts (including information) © Percival and Art Distribution, Askrikegatan 13, SE-115 57 Stockholm, Sweden. Phone: +46-8-661 54 33, www.artdistribution.se

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NOTE

Percival (first name and surname; no pseudonym), who lives in Stockholm, Sweden, is a writer, artist, and composer. He has exhibited his paintings and published books in Swedish and in English. His music and some of his plays have been performed in Stockholm and elsewhere. Information about his work: www.artdistribution.se



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