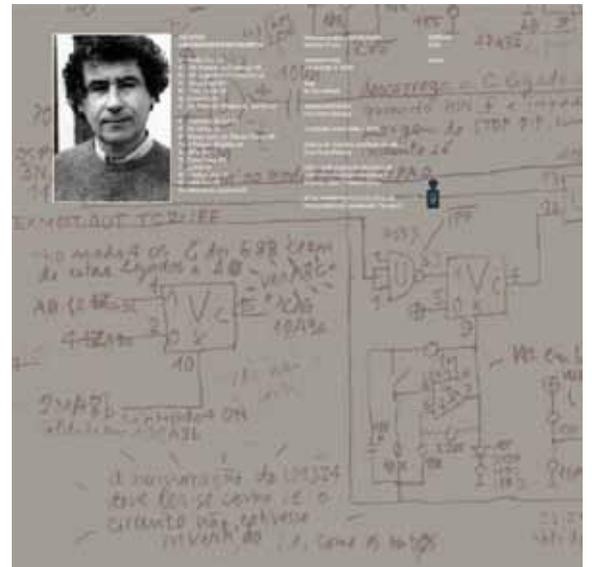




> Grama004 / 2017 / LP (limited 200 copies)

René Bertholo
Um Argentino no Deserto



Tracklist:

Side A

Nada: Luz 2'28"
Um Passeio Ao Domingo 3'16"
Um Argentino No Deserto 2'32"
África Aqui 5'34"
Praia Verde 4'22"
Amanhã 3'23"
Os Sinos Do Ribeiro Do Álamo 2'32"

Side B

Expresso Do Sul 3'13"
Os Grilos 1'53"
Dança Para Um Dia De Chuva 2'00"
A Passos Rápidos 2'06"
Olha 2'04"
Chop Suey 3'39"
Já Foi 2'24"
Lembro-me 2'55"
Uma Voz 2'29"
Música Da Cozinha 0'59"

Coordination and Production
Matéria Prima

Production of the 1st edition
Sirr.ecords 2000

Design
M. Carvalhais

Photograph of René Bertholo provided by
Elna Voss Hellwig

Extra info
"Música da cozinha",
collaboration from Elna Voss Hellwig.

"Olha", involuntary collaboration from
Elna Voss Hellwig (marimbas) and
António Costa Pinheiro (voice).

"Já foi", involuntary collaboration
from Thierry Dubost (Yamaha synthesizer)

Composed between 1988 and 1999.

About the composer:

René Bertholo - (Alhandra, 1935 - Vila Nova da Cacela, 2005)

Best known as a painter and sculptor, Bertholo attended The School of Decorative Art António Arroio (1947-51) and the Superior School of Belas-Artes of Lisbon (1951-1957).

Of all the artistic occupations that Bertholo was practicing, the KWY magazine (1958-1964), and after that the KWY group he co-founded with Lourdes Castro, stands out.

His musical work, though including classical composition, largely focused on a digital modular sequencer/synthesizer of his own design.



Composer's text

This story began when I had to learn something about electronics, in order to make objects with electric movement, which I call "small-scale models"; and which I was making between 1963 and 1973. In 1973, when tired of repairs I had decided to give up making them, a friend gave me one of those musical boxes with a handle, a drum bristling with prickles and a steel comb. Although I had seen similar ones, that particular one fascinated me and I had an urge to make one like it, but using electronics. That is how my first "Makina" was born – one could describe it as of a digital, programmable type of synthesizer which has gone through different phases since then and taken on various shapes which even today are still ongoing. At first it was a machine which produced sounds, but I inevitably became more and more interested in its musical possibilities.

Not having had any musical training, and knowing little of electronics I wanted to learn by "trial and error" and had doubts as to whether the sounds I produced could be considered as music. For this reason I called it "Mosik". I wanted to "play" a different kind of music from what we hear on records and tapes. I am not trying to imitate sounds made by the instruments we are familiar with today, but, if similarity does exist, I am not going to turn my back on it. This "Makina" which plays by itself is made up two parts: one that allows the programming of a fixed electronic memory which we refer to as the program, and one that plays and contains the "instruments". Only this part is present when we give a "disconcert" in public.

It is composed of three melodic units, two of them with eight octaves and three voices, and one with eight octaves and two voices. Three units consist of noises made by birds, frogs and other sounds of nature and 3 mini-samplers, two 16 seconds long and two lasting one minute. There are also 3 percussion instruments. The melodic units may produce very different sounds which make it difficult to hear how many are involved. The same could be said about the percussion elements because they have filters which may modify the basic sounds, and so on. The animal noises have twenty four basic sounds. These are modified by variations in the frequency of the oscillation which produces them. Finally there is a unit where the usual commands of a pre-amplifier: flats, sharps, balance and volume are programmed.

The different sounds made by the "instruments" are programmed in this unit to come out up to six loud-speakers, thus enabling the sound to "travel" from one side to another around the room. Except for the integrated microcircuits, transistors, capacitors, etc, that have to be produced industrially, all the other elements, that make up this "Makina" were created, designed and built by me.

René Bertholo
