

Sonic Dreams

By Vanessa Tomlinson ©2017

Sonic Dreams is an imagination of lost and unknown sounds. Performers improvise their way through 8 imaginary soundscapes – the turtle coming up for breath; the spines of the giant echidna rubbing against a tree; the stick-nest rat moving about in its nest for example.

This piece is composed for and dedicated to Grey-Wing Ensemble, a group of sonic investigators that live in Perth, Australia. All the sound worlds imagined in this work once belonged to this area of the world, and are now either extinct or critically endangered. In the case of the turtle *Pseudemydura umbrina*, its habit is now the Perth airport – its sound world totally transformed.

Preparation: Practice for this piece may include improvising within the given sound worlds, research about the species in the piece, site visits/recordings, rehearsing how to move from one sonic state to the next. Or it may include going on stage and spontaneously playing from the instruction cards.

Performance: Move through the sequence of 8 imagined sound worlds in any order. These may last from 30 second minimum per card, to as long as you like. A different person will lead each change. Changes can be sharp, as in changing a slide, or can cross fade. In the case of a cross-fade, some sort of logic must be applied to the transition. Remember the order, and what you played. The coda is a recount of the sound worlds – 5 seconds per imagination. Together you are creating a series of fixed, repeatable, sonic memories – for that moment only.

<p>Imagine the sound of <i>Zaglossus hacketti</i>'s spines rubbing against a tree</p>	<p>Imagine the sound of <i>Pseudemydura umbrina</i> coming up for breath</p>
<p>Imagine the sound of <i>Potorous gilbertii</i> at sunset</p>	<p>Imagine the sound of the pig-footed bandicoot dreaming</p>
<p>Imagine the sound of <i>Notomys macrotis</i> hopping</p>	<p>Imagine the sound of <i>Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis</i> in the dawn chorus</p>
<p>Imagine the sound of the Night Parrot calling</p>	<p>Imagine the sound of the Lesser stick-nest rat inside its nest</p>
<p>CODA Repeat each cell, in order, 5" per sound world. Total 40".</p>	