

NEW RELEASE FROM
TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

TONY CONRAD FOUR VIOLINS (1964)



FORMAT: LP
RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 17th, 2004
FILE UNDER: Avant
CATALOG NO: TOE-LP-17
UPC: 806501101716

In 1962 Tony Conrad's amplified strings introduced the sustained drone of just-intonation into "minimal" music. Conrad, together with John Cale, Angus Maclise, La Monte Young, and Marian Zazeela formed a performance collaboration from 1962-65 sometimes known as the Dream Syndicate. Utilizing long durations and precise pitch, their aggressively mesmerizing "Dream Music" denied the activity of composition, articulated their shared ideas of performance, and established the Big Bang of "minimalism."

When this remarkable group dissolved in 1966, their many rehearsal and performance recordings were repressed by Young and Zazeela, and remain unheard to this day. Conrad himself stepped outside of the Dream Syndicate once: on December 19, 1964 he recorded *Four Violins*, his only 1960s solo tape of violin playing.

Beautifully packaged in a gatefold jacket with metallic inks, and pressed on superior-grade vinyl.

"The most striking quality of *Four Violins* is its instant familiarity: the grating sound of the violin parts imparts a vision of a uniquely American distance, the feel of a continent. It's a quality also present in the spaces surrounding John Fahey's or Loren Mazzacane's rattled notes, the early Sun recordings, the compositions of Charles Ives, the righteous soul-breath of Albert Ayler. With *Four Violins* Conrad moves closer to sound-essence, to ringing out the notes which have always existed in the skies of America.

The joy comes from connecting with Conrad's language, from following its own logic — like railroads roaring out into the Midwest. This is a landmark recording in every sense, and the fact that this is only the first of many forthcoming Conrad installments from Table of the Elements makes me feel like howling with joy." —David Keenan, THE WIRE

"Tony Conrad is a pioneer, as seminal in his way to American music as Johnny Cash or Captain Beefheart or Ornette Coleman, one of those really savvy old guys whom all the kids want to emulate because their ideas, their style are electric and new and somehow indivisible." —ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

"100 Records That Set the World on Fire [When No One Was Listening]" —THE WIRE

"Minimalism's critical document... Astonishing" —ART PAPERS

"Totally uncompromising... a marvel." —ARTFORUM

"The perfect sound." —CHICAGO READER

"Brain-blistering." —LUNA KAFE

"Groundbreaking." —BILLBOARD

"Brilliant." —NEW YORK TIMES

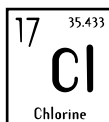


TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS
WWW.TABLEOFTHEELEMENTS.COM
INFO@TABLEOFTHEELEMENTS.COM

Distributed by SC Distribution, 1499 West Second St., Bloomington, IN 47403
ph: 812.335.1572 fx: 812.323.8492 Contact Sarah at sarah@scdistribution.com