Topology – Big Decisions – CD Poster

This project has been assisted by the Federal Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding & advisory body.
BIG DECISIONS: THE WHITLAM DISMISSAL
Robert Davidson, 2000

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ:
Gough Whitlam
Member for Werriwa,
former Prime Minister of Australia
Sir John Kerr
Governor General
Malcolm Fraser
Prime Minister
Bob Hawke
President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, future Prime Minister
Paul Keating
former Minister for Northern Australia, future Prime Minister
Joh Bjelke-Petersen
Premier of Queensland
Sir Charles Court
Premier of Western Australia
Tony Eggleton
Federal Director of the Liberal Party Secretariat
David Smith
Private Secretary to the Governor General
Peter Young
ABC Radio 2 newsreader
Two unidentified women interviewed on the street
Unidentified farmer

THE DISMISSAL
1

WELL MAY WE SAY
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN
BECAUSE NOTHING WILL SAVE
THE GOVERNER - GENERAL

THIS ELECTION HAS BEEN CAUSED
BY A PRIME MINISTER WHO ... TOOK
AUSTRALIA THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT
STEP ON THE ROAD TO DICTATORSHIP

KERR’S CUR
2
WE WANT AN HONEST OPEN GOVERNMENT: MEN THAT WE CAN TRUST.

WHITLAM HAD NO COMPUNCION IN LOPPING HEADS LIKE CREAN, CONNOR, CAMERON, CASS, COPE, CAIRNS, AND HE WAS ABOUT THE LAST ONE LEFT STANDING AND AH, THAT WAS BY THE VERY CONSTITUTION HE WAS TRYING TO DESTROY.

I SHALL NEVER ABANDON THAT FAITH BECAUSE MY FAITH RESTS NOT JUST IN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY ITSELF BUT IN THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

I THINK THERE'S A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY TO SNOWBALL INTO VIOLENCE, AH, TO TRY AND SUBSTITUTE THE PROCESSES OF DEBATE, AND DECENT PEACEABLE ELECTIONEERING

Topography: Big Decisions — CD Poster
**Paramell VI**


*Paramell VI* is a chamber version of the two piano work, *Paramell V* written at the MacDowell Colony for Artists, Peterborough, New Hampshire in April, 1981. In this version the solo piano is accompanied by instruments whose function is to only ‘colour’ the piano’s sound rather than interact in the traditional way.

Stylistically the work stems from the American ‘minimalist’ tradition of Riley, Reich, and Glass, but goes its separate way. The extensive use of repetitive phrases and patterns exhibits a clear overall shape of growth, climax and denouement which has something of a 19th Century quality about it.

“Paramell” is an invented word used for a series of instrumental works begun in 1976. *Paramell VI* was commissioned by Option Band (Oxford, England) with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain, but first performed by the Philadelphia based ensemble, Relâche (directed by Joseph Franklin) at the ASUC Nineteenth Annual Festival Conference at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 5 April, 1984. The first British performance was by Circle (director, Gregory Rose) at the EMAS Sound Spectacular II during the American Festival, St Johns Smith Square, London, 26 May, 1985.

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**Chop Chop**

*John Babbage, 2002*

Chop
Slang for the popular local beer of Santiago, Chile.

Chop
A not-so-popular (with the Government) tobacco.

Chops
A common jazz term used to talk about technique and musicality.

Chop Chop?
Two beers? Usually said when you’re telling someone to hurry up.

*Chop Chop,*
hurry up or get left behind — also applies to the five musicians in playing the piece.
Schadenfreude has come to be one of the defining emotions for modern life. Its translation suggests a type of malicious glee or pleasure taken from the misfortune/s of others.

Schadenfreude has many forms ranging from a type of sinister/revengeful glee to lighthearted laughter as experienced, for example, when one watches a ‘caught on tape’ television documentary.

My commissioned work for Topology aims at representing this range of emotions from dark and malicious to light hearted. The three movements should speak for themselves in this regard.

Experts say that a little schadenfreude on a daily basis can be helpful in relieving stress, so sit back and enjoy the music as it will actually be good for your health.

Throbology is a short, exuberant work which features the baritone saxophone, double bass and low-register piano in an insistent pulsating groove. The piece opens like a machine snorting, grunting and eventually kicking in. After the machine-like low pulses and high unison lines of the opening, the piece settles in to exploring motivic material heard mainly in the violin and viola parts. Overall, the piece gradually rises in register, with the soprano saxophone supplanting the baritone, and the other instruments exploring their more brilliant registers. At this point a new section begins, which sounds not dissimilar to a CD player with a skipping problem or a bass guitar riff gone mad. Here a flamboyant Jimi Hendrix inspired viola solo takes over, adding new life to the motivic material heard earlier in the piece before the machine-like textures finally give way, and the music winds down to a quivering halt.

Throbology is based on an earlier piece Throb originally commissioned by Perihelion.
1. CHOP CHOP (J. Babbage)
2. PARAMELL VI (S. Montague)
3. BIG DECISIONS: THE WHITLAM DISMISSAL (R. Davidson)
4. SCHADENFREUDE (K. Farbach)
5. THROBOLOGY (P. Stanhope)
6. URINE MIGHT PETRIFY US (B. Hoey)