

WESTERN CREED SPYBEY

W ANDS

In the weeks that followed the passing of Phil Western in February of 2019, his friends spent time consoling each other, reflecting and talking. Phil had introduced Jesse Creed to Mark Spybey because he felt that they might enjoy working together. Jesse and Phil had done some improvised music in 2014. They had planned to form a new band called 4 of Wands. Jesse invited Mark to listen to the music, which he subsequently worked on. The result is a three-way posthumous collaboration between Phil, Jesse and Mark and is to be released by Cold Spring Records in 2020 on compact disc.

The story starts with Phil and Jesse. The rhythmic beautiful melodic electronic music that Phil Western produced over a 20 plus year career is well known and appreciated. His work with Download and the multitude of solo albums and side projects, such as Frozen Rabbit with Tim Hill and Beehatch with Spybey demonstrated his love of music from a wide variety of genres. Phil was a polymath: his restless wandering exposed him to all sorts of music and ideas. He was fascinated by minimalism, a fact that may surprise some of his listeners. One of his favourite records was Time Machines by Coil. Troum were another favourite band of his.

Jesse works under the name The Passenger, releasing records on labels such as More Than Human. Both Phil and Jesse shared a love for vintage analogue synthesizers such as the vcs3 and the music for Wands was largely created using this equipment. It was improvised. In the spirit of how it was created, Spybey added improvised passages using his collection of home made and ethnic instruments and then edited the pieces.

Phil would often talk about being 'taken away,' by music. Both Jesse and Mark have laboured to do this through their own music too, not as a means of escape but to transcend. Phil travelled extensively in India, a country he loved. So whilst it may seem a tad pretentious to say that this music is transcendental, it does earnestly strive to explore the desire to go beyond the ordinary everyday experience and to reach a place where the ego's and the individual contributions of the players are largely inconsequential.

A place where time doesn't really matter.
A place of healing and invention.

This album is dedicated to Philip C Western, our dear friend and his family and friends. Thank you to Phil's lovely daughter Mora for her art that we have reproduced on postcards available with the first hundred copies of this release. Jesse and Mark. Spring 2020.

Jesse Creed, 14.11.81

Jesse Creed is a Vancouver based electronic musician who works under the name 'The Passenger.' He uses all sorts of gadgetry to create an amalgam of electronic music, exposing his love of drone, ambient, melodic techno, acid and downtempo.

<https://the-passenger.bandcamp.com/>

Phil Western, 12.08.71 – 04.02.19

Phil Western was a Vancouver based musician, producer and engineer, working in a variety of projects such as Download, Plateau, Beehatch, Off and Gone and Frozen Rabbit. Phil sadly passed away in 2019.

<https://philwestern.bandcamp.com/>

Mark Spybey, 02.06.61

Mark Spybey is a British musician, whose career started in the 1980's with Zoviet-France before he moved to Vancouver, where he formed Dead Voices on Air and worked with Download. He continues to collaborate extensively and now lives in his native Yorkshire.

<https://deadvoicesonair.bandcamp.com/>

81	71	61
10	10	10

WESTERN CREED SPYBEY

W ANDS

1. Ace of Wands
A sign of new beginnings
2. Two of Wands
New partnerships and relationships
3. Three of Wands
Freedom, adventure and travel
4. Four of Wands
A cause for celebration
5. Five of Wands
Time to end the discord and clear the air
6. Six of Wands
Others will recognise your achievements

Phil and Jesse used the following equipment:

Yamaha CS 30

Roland SH101

Sequential Circuits Prophet 5

EMS VCS 3

Arp Solus

New England Digital Synclavier 9600

Korg DV 800

Oberheim Two Voice

Eventide H3000

Mark used his hands, feet and mouth

Engineered and Produced by Western Creed Spybey, Vancouver BC, Canada
and North Yorkshire, Europe 2018-2019

Final Edits by Spybey,

Mastered by Martin Bowes at The Cage



W/ECTED+NI
CREE+N
SPYBE+Y