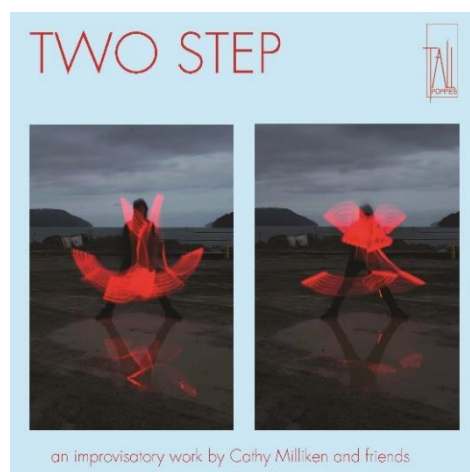




## TWO STEP – Cubism-oriented musical dialogues from Berlin, Brisbane and Tel Aviv

Improvisation, flow of speech and (re-)composition are the key words for the new album by the Australian musician Cathy Milliken. This Berlin-based oboist, composer and creative director, who was in charge of the Berlin Philharmonic's education programme for several years, was inspired by her work with Karlheinz Stockhausen to engage more closely with the art of improvisation, an art in which all instruments can liberate themselves from the strictures of any particular musical tradition. "It was a formative experience. I realised that my instrument is a musical voice which cannot and must not be limited by its range, its reed, or the expectations of it as a western classical instrument." Now, on the album TWO STEP, issued on the Australian label Tall Poppies, she has combined her own abilities in the field of free music-making with those of close associates.



TWO STEP AN IMPROVISATORY WORK BY CATHY MILLIKEN AND FRIENDS  
[1] – [5] TWO STEP [45'42]

WILLIAM BARTON (DIDGERIDOO) // Yael BEROLSKY (VIOLIN) // SÖREN  
BIRKE (DUDUK) // JULIAN DAY (2 ORGANS/VOICE) // BRETT DEAN  
(VIOLA/VOICE) // KAREN POWER (FIELD RECORDINGS) // VANESSA  
TOMLINSON (PERCUSSION) // CATHY MILLIKEN (OBOE/VTIMME) //  
CAROL ROBINSON (CLARINET, BASS CLARINET) // MICHAEL SCHIEFEL  
(VOCALS) // ROBYN SCHULKOWSKY (BOWED PERCUSSION) // DIETMAR  
WIESNER (FLUTE/BASS FLUTE) // WU WEI (SHENG)

Tall Poppies Records // TP261 // ab sofort erhältlich

In the first working phase of her project TWO STEP, Cathy Milliken, with 12 other musicians, recorded part-composed, part-improvised duets that, in the spirit of a "work in progress", influenced the next steps in the production and became living dialogues in sound. In addition to striking duet combinations such as didgeridoo and viola or percussion and oboe, it is the texts recited or sung by the collaborating artists that particularly draw the listener's attention. They come from the collection "Tender Buttons" by the American author and art collector Gertrude Stein (1874-1946), which was inspired by cubism, and describe everyday objects such as a red hat or paper in a grammatically unconventional and highly rhythmical language.

In the second phase, Cathy Milliken re-mixed the collected musical material and text elements to develop a coherent concept: listening to TWO STEP is ultimately like going on a musical journey with different commentators.

Besides Cathy Milliken herself, the participating musicians include the well-known violist and composer Brett Dean, the didgeridoo player and composer William Barton, the sheng player Wu Wei and the percussionist Vanessa Tomlinson. Karen Power contributed her recordings of sounds from nature. All

the recordings were made in 2018 and 2019 in Berlin, Brisbane and Tel Aviv. Almost half of the musicians come from Australia. The admixture of musical influences from other cultures as well makes for a very international album with a rare and unique flavour.

Tall Poppies is the first Australian label specialising in new and classical music by Australian composers and artists. Cathy Milliken's ongoing programme TWO STEP is 45 minutes long, but has been split into eight tracks on the album so that radio stations can make a suitable selection for their broadcasting formats. The album was produced with the financial support of the Australian Council for the Arts, of which Cathy Milliken is a scholar in 2020.

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#### **Release-concert**

**Sunday, March 15, 2020 | 8pm | Berlin | Club der Polnischen Versager (Ackerstr. 168/169)**

TWO STEP

**Cathy Milliken *Oboe, Stimme***

Sören Birke *Duduk*

Michael Schiefel *Vocals*

Wu Wei Sheng