

Archive Series 1

VANKLAVERLAND :DEAD VOICES ON AIR:



1. A Thousand Reasons Why
2. Dogger Split
3. Wet Wet Fire Cotton
4. Tropic Hoard
5. Lost in Des Moines, IA
6. Pree Zeehond
7. Mk Ng 49 a/b/c class
8. Ember Slee
9. Frij Dolfijn

**Dead Voices on Air presents The Happy Submarines,
playing music for Frankie Pett**

In June and July 1999, months before I left Vancouver I prepared music for a potential release for the German multi-media outfit Gvoon, who I had met whilst part of the Can Soloprojects concerts. When I eventually played Arthur from Gvoon the music he didn't like the guitars on one track too much. So I chose to use much of the recordings as base material for what became the Invisible Records release "Frankie Pett."

I recorded most of this at home and then worked on some tracks with Darryl Neudorf in Vancouver. I assembled "Frankie Pett" with Frankie Pett in Niels van Hoorn's studio in Klaverland, Holland in the early months of 2000 whilst I was living with Niels and his glorious family. Just after the tour DVOA did Michael Rother and Dieter Moebius in Europe and the North American tour with The Legendary Pink Dots in May and June of the same year.

I have decided to release the base material because when I listened to it I felt it worked.

I created all the sounds, engineered it, did everything but I need to thank Darryl, Niels, Darren, Bradley and Frankie for helping create the finished product and for being such great friends. Michael, Moebi and the rest of The Pink Dots too.

There are many mementoes of my time in Holland but I would suggest you get hold of the stories that I wrote for the Frankie Pett cd sleeve and those that my dear and now sadly departed friend Mark Nugent and I wrote for the cd I did with Niels called "de Klaverland Klompen Voetbal Club." John McDaniel also contributed abstract words for that text.

Not all of the base tracks were used for Frankie Pett. Some of the song titles will give keen listeners a reference to the 'finished songs' from the Invisible Records CD release which came out in June 2000.

These were heady, busy times. In 1999 I travelled often between Canada and Europe to play shows with the band Sofortkontakt! with the late Can guitarist Michael Karoli. My studio at home had been digitised by the addition of an ADAT and I was using the Roland Groovebox SP808 a lot.

Listening to Vanklaverland, I really can't remember some of the source sounds but I expect most were still generated by acoustic instruments. I think I also probably used a Casio SK1, possibly even ones circuit bent by David Wright or Dan Kibke. One or two of the tracks for Frankie Pett were developed by Darryl Neudorf in Vancouver. quick
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When I decamped from Canada to Niels' beautiful house on Boxing Day of 1999, with my beloved cat, I started to record music in his barn studio pretty quickly. The first album I worked on was the joint cd for Hush-Hush with Mick Harris quickly followed by Frankie Pett. I left for the Roots of Electronica Tour with Darryl and Darren Phillips supporting Michael Rother and Dieter Moebius on the 16th of January 2000. We played 16 shows in Germany and England. I can remember that it was cold and that we started in Offenberg close to the French border and the Black Forest on a cold snowy day.

The large studio at Niels' was the top floor of a Dutch barn, a great space to work in but it was cold. I'd be there most of the day, riding to Millingen to pick up some groceries before it got dark and I'd often cook for the van Hoorns. Later Niels and I would retire to the fireside and drink a cognac and talk. Surrounded by dogs and cats and loveable children. Telling stories of rivers and wars, brick works, nature reserves, the neighbours and of Niels' house renovations.

Frankie would come by and Ryan Moore too. Niels' friend and drummer from a drum and bass band called Voltage, Bradley Dunn-Klerx came to play on Frankie Pett and we spent a day I think recording his wonderful drumming. Frankie spent days putting the album together on Pro Tools, it could have been at least two weeks of work. My time in Klaverland came to an end in the summer of 2000 but not before Niels, Bradley and I had motored quickly to Prague, Dresden and Wroclaw in Poland to do three shows. Several days later I went with The Pink Dots for a 30 date tour of North America in May. I returned to Klaverland from Seattle, picked up the cat, packed up my gear and moved to London.

None of this would have been possible without the help of all those I have named but the music for this release was all conceived in that loft in Vancouver. A million miles from anywhere.

All music by Mark Spybey, recorded 302-Watershed, Vancouver BC, Canada. 1999.

