

BIOGRAPHY

MARK ISHAM

Windham Hill Recording Artist

Latest LP: VAPOR DRAWINGS WH 1027

Produced by Steven Miller.

Mark Isham, synthesist, brass player, keyboard player and composer, was born in New York City in 1951. Born into a uniquely musical family, Mark's mother is a concert violinist and his father, a professor of music and art. Mark's first instruments were the piano and violin. At an early age, he switched to the classical trumpet. He studied privately and played in various school bands and orchestras. His interest in jazz was fostered during high school years. He was particularly influenced by Miles Davis and Wayne Shorter and Weather Report continues to be a strong influence.

Mark moved to San Francisco in his early 20's and divided his musical energies between stints with the Oakland Symphony, San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Opera, while working with a variety of jazz and rock bands. He recorded and toured with the Sons of Champlain and performed with the Beach Boys, Esther Phillips, Charles Lloyd, Horace Silver, Pharoah Sanders and Dave Liebman.

In the late 70's, he recorded two albums on the ECM label as part of Art Lande's Rubisa Patrol. He still enjoys performing duet concerts with Lande whenever possible.

In 1979, he formed a successful association with Patrick O'Hearn, Terry Bozzio and Peter Maunu called Group 87. Their 1981 CBS release still rates as one of the most innovative albums of modern instrumental music. O'Hearn and Bozzio subsequently went on to form the nucleus of Missing Persons, one of the most successful pop-new wave bands in the world.

Mark Isham's current work includes a four year association with Van Morrison as his horn and synthesizer player. He has been featured on Morrison's last four albums. Isham recently completed a filmscore for "Never Cry Wolf," directed by Carol Ballard (The Black Stallion). He co-produced the first Chas Jankel album for A&M, which turned out to be one of the top dance albums of last year, and included the original version of "Aino Corrida," which also became a major hit for Quincy Jones (The Dude LP). He also worked with Pink Floyd on The Wall, is featured prominently on William Ackerman's latest release, Past Light, and is busy writing music for a new Group 87 album to be released by Capitol Records in Spring, 1984.

Significantly, the new LP for Windham Hill, entitled Vapor Drawings is his first solo effort. It truly represents a step of refinement for synthesized work, combining synthesizer with keyboard and horns in cohesive compositions.

Mark Isham brings an eclectic musical background and perception to Windham Hill. His unique synthesis of classical, jazz and rock set him apart from easy classification. The warmth and singularly human feel of his music make Mark Isham an artist Windham Hill classifies as powerful.