

# BIOGRAPHY

Scott Cossu

Windham Hill Records Recording Artist

Latest Album: ISLANDS, WH1033, WT-1033 (cassette) and CD-1033 (compact disk)

"Wind Dance (WH 1016) is exquisite . . . an aural delight for anyone who likes acoustic music that falls somewhere between jazz, classical and easy listening."

— Larry Kelp,  
Oakland Tribune

"Cossu ranges with remarkable facility across entire musical landscapes, sliding blues passages into folk pieces and juxtaposing passionate ethnic rhythms with crystalline classical passages."

— Ron Adair, The Spokesman-Review

"Cossu's music is contemplative, even meditative or spiritual, and very often possessed of a truly rare beauty."

— Samuel Graham

Pianist/flutist/composer/arranger Scott Cossu was born in West Virginia in 1951. He studied classical piano and theory and composition at the University of Ohio, where he received his B.A. in Music. Scott relocated to Seattle in 1974 to study ethnomusicology at the University of Washington, where he had the opportunity to study with several illustrious musicians from India (Ustad Dagan), Romania (Damien Luca), Southeast Asia (Tao Chu Shin) and Africa (Hamza el Din). In 1977, Scott took an extensive trip to South America to study and record Indian music in the Andes. This experience resulted in an influx of Indian and Latin rhythms and themes into Scott's compositions.

Cossu's early performing experiences included touring the midwest playing keyboards with R&B, soul and rock groups in high school and college. Strong influences at this time included Wilson Pickett, Stevie Wonder and the Young Rascals. In 1970, Scott heard Duke Ellington and immediately began to explore the world of jazz. Pianists McCoy Tyner and Horace Silver were also among those he was inspired by at this time. Scott's music has been described as "engaged in charting that stylistic no-man's land that lies out there in the unmarked border regions where jazz, rock, folk, and classical styles meet and fuse."

Still Moments, Cossu's debut album, featuring harp and cello, was released late in 1980 on the Music is Medicine label. It received heavy airplay and much critical acclaim, leading to his second album on Windham Hill, Wind Dance. Wind Dance was produced by George Winston and features duets with guitarist Alex de Grassi and various ensembles, including cello and percussion.

Spirals, Scott's third album, also on the Music is Medicine label, showcased a departure into larger ensembles featuring horns. It simultaneously fused boogie, latin and classical elements in orchestral arrangements.

Islands, Scott's latest lp (and second one on Windham Hill) is a powerful new collection of original solo and ensemble pieces with Cossu on piano surrounded by some of New York's finest jazz players, including flutist Dave Valentin, bassist Mark Egan, drummer Dan Gottlieb and cellist Eugene Friesen.

Promotion:

P.O. Box 4122

Pioneer Square Station

Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 223-0517