

**Nicolas Collins: *Salvaged* -- Compositions 1986 - 2014**  
**Trace Elements Records TE-1012015DVD**

- 1) *Tall Poppies* (2009)
- 2) *The Royal Touch* (2014)
- 3) *Waggle Dance* (2007)
- 4) *Imperfekt (The Simple Past)* (2014)
- 5) *Salvage (Guiyu Blues)* (2008)
- 6) *In Memoriam Michel Waisvisz* (2009)
- 7) *Tobabo Fonio* (1986)

*Tall Poppies* was originally a three-channel video installation in the Diapason Gallery in Brooklyn. Contact mikes on the stems of sparklers pick up the whoosh of the burning magnesium and the subsequent ping and pop of the wire cores as they cool (these sounds are not processed in any way). Video projectors beam synchronized recorded loops of individual sparklers onto the walls of the gallery, each image accompanied by its own sound channel. This DVD reformats the video into a single widescreen image, with three channels of audio arrayed in the 5.1 field.

*The Royal Touch* and *Salvage* reanimate deceased, discarded electronic circuitry (cell phones, computer motherboards, etc.) The performers make connections between simple circuits of my design and the electronic corpses; feedback between my circuit and the components on the dead boards produces complex patterns of oscillation that change in response to the slightest movement of the contact points. In *The Royal Touch* a solo performer makes these connections through fishing weights. In *Salvage* six players manipulate test probes, occasionally suspending their activity when signaled to do so by a seventh player with a light cue.

*Waggle Dance*, for laptop marching band, was written for the Princeton Laptop Orchestra (PLOrk). The sound material consists of feedback between the internal mikes and speakers in the laptops, triggered by crackle noise extracted from antique cylinder recordings. The screens light the performers' faces as they wander in the dark. In *Imperfekt* the sounds of a barely-functional Soviet radio pass through a maze of computer signal processing. In *In Memoriam Michel Waisvisz* employs a candle's flicker to control the tuning of four oscillators.

*Tobabo Fonio*, an older piece, is a live reworking of brass band music from the Peruvian Andes. The sounds are transformed by a digital signal processor controlled by, and playing back through, an old trombone. The initial samples are so short they are heard as drones, sprayed around the room by the highly directional trombone speaker. The pitch deepens as the samples are lengthened, gradually giving way to bursts of trumpet riffs and drum rolls, and finally brief glimpses of the Cusqueña music at its core.

**Region free DVD: \$10 (US)**  
**Shipping domestic USA: \$4 (Total: \$14)**  
**Shipping outside USA: \$12 (Total: \$22)**

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## **CREDITS**

*Tall Poppies* (2009)

Camera: Tommy Hefron

Recorded at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, March 2009

*The Royal Touch* (2014)

Recording: Nicolas Collins

Recorded at EMS Elektronmusikstudion, Stockholm, April 2015

*Waggle Dance* (2007)

Performers: Yuchen Chang, Nicholas Davis, Brogan Drissell, Sam Grossinger, Rebecca Himelstein, Neal Markowski, Beth McDonald, Anna Orlikowska, Madeleine Richter, Casper Wang

Recording: Austen Brown

*Imperfekt (The Simple Past)* (2014)

Recording: Nicolas Collins

Recorded at EMS Elektronmusikstudion, Stockholm, April 2015

NOTE: *Imperfekt* has no video component, the recording is audio only.

*Salvage (Guiyu Blues)* (2008)

Performers (in order of appearance): Katja Lindeberg, Mathias Josefson, David Fox, Kali Malone, Mersid Ramičević, Lise-Lotte Norelius

Recording: Henrik Jonsson

Recorded at EMS Elektronmusikstudion, Stockholm, April 2015

*In Memoriam Michel Waisvisz* (2009)

Recording: Henrik Jonsson

Recorded at EMS Elektronmusikstudion, Stockholm, April 2015

*Tobabo Fonio* (1986)

Source recording of brass band music: Primavera de Tauca (Cuzco, Peru)

Video recording: Stella Varveris

Recorded at Experimental Intermedia Foundation, New York, 1989

Composition, hardware, software and performances by Nicolas Collins except where noted.  
DVD production and mastering by Austen Brown at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, May – July 2015.

NOTE: This DVD has been mastered in two audio formats: Dolby 5.1 surround sound, and a high-resolution (24 bit 96khz) stereo soundtrack. Since most people do not have 5.1 playback systems at home this disc defaults to the stereo format. You must select "5.1 Surround" in the menu before you "Play All" (or before you play any individual track) unless you wish to hear the stereo soundtrack.