

An abstract painting featuring a prominent, winding yellow river that flows from the top left towards the bottom right. The background is a complex interplay of teal, green, and dark purple hues, with visible brushstrokes and textures. The overall composition is dynamic and layered.

RIVER CONVERSATIONS

TONY CEDRAS
MACIEK SCHEJBAL

None of us get to choose where we are born. We arrive in this existence, naked and vulnerable, surrounded by our family, and ensconced in the music and culture, the sights, sounds and smells, (and the politics) of wherever we are born. These forces leave their mark on our true selves, even before we are aware of their influence. As vibrant and beautiful as some of them are, there are also forces at play in life that are difficult and challenging. We often have to struggle to be the person we desire to be, sometimes having to go against the grains of nationalism, ethnicity, and class to find our place in this world. In fact, many of us, despite our love of home and what we know, end up having to leave our home and become citizens of the world in order to find our balance. For Tony and Maciek this is certainly true. Both of these musicians left their respective homelands of South Africa and Poland for a larger global existence, crossing not just borders but cultures in their quest for richer lives as artists. They have absorbed new sights and sounds, collaborated with musicians from around the world and infused these influences into their music.

For seekers like Tony and Maciek it was an inevitable path. As I listen to their interplay and spirit in this music, I can't help but feel that I am a fly on the wall of some pub in the middle of anywhere or nowhere, seeing the reunion of two old friends lost in a conversation that has waited a long time to happen. It has the essence of both home and the long dusty road, which despite its treacherous and difficult footing has led us to this place. It is filled with happiness, camaraderie and joyous sounds that, wherever we are from, we can feel, understand, and enjoy. That is the magic that is music!

-Sean Conly, 2020

1. **Amampondo**
(Miriam Makeba)
2. **Goema Medley**
(Various)
3. **Qongqothwane / The Click Song**
(Xhosa Trad.)
4. **Horizons**
(Tony Cedras)
5. **Milele**
(Miriam Makeba)
6. **Njere**
(Tony Cedras)
7. **Boeta Braai**
(Cape Town Trad.)
8. **Yonkers**
(Tony Cedras & Maciek Schejbal)
Dedicated to Lester Bowie

All songs (except nos. 2 and 8) recorded with no overdubs.

Tony Cedras - Voice, Guitar, Accordion,
Berimbau, Trumpet

Maciek Schejbal - Drums, Backup Voice

Produced by Tony Cedras and Maciek Schejbal

Recorded at Afro-Polka Studio, Yonkers, New York, October 2012
Engineered, mixed, and mastered by Maciek Schejbal

Cover: Bahar Behbahani, *Yellow River*
Lapis lazuli on hand carved wood board, 2020

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