JUST BEFORE THE DAWN

Sounds startle the air. On this night, birds call across as if the light won't come. There is no silent center to start from. For generations we've opened a door. A burning patience, waiting to hear what hasn't been said. Just before, they say the darkest hour is just before. "All right now . . . Later . . . Easy now." These sounds will find a center, or the center will change. "I think that music as we know it is autobiographical," Hemphill said. Just friends, metal hued breath across strings, entering open, way above, only to slide into the song, leaving still. Birds in the darkness, waiting for no one. Open the door, wake these sounds. Just before the dawn.

—Marty Ehrlich

Executive producer: Arthur Moorhead
Producer: Wayne Horvitz
Engineer: James Farber
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Assistant engineer: Devin Emke
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Mixed May 8 and 9, 1995 at River Sound, NYC
Assistant engineer: Tony Gillis
Digital mastering: Paul Zinman, SoundByte Productions, Inc., NYC
Cover design: Stephen Byram

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY


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Spirit of JAH is in memory of Julius Arthur Hemphill.

This recording is dedicated to my parents, Ira and Phyllis Ehrlich.
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MARTY EHRLICH'S DARK WOODS ENSEMBLE
JUST BEFORE THE DAWN  80474-2

1  Spirit of JAH (Marty Ehrlich/Don Alias) (2:27)
2  Thickets (Marty Ehrlich) (6:40)
3  Mudpie Anthem (Mark Helias) (7:56)
4  Dance No. 1 (Marty Ehrlich) (6:07)
5  Flight (Marty Ehrlich) (8:22)
6  The Folksinger (Marty Ehrlich) (7:13)
7  Side by Side (Marty Ehrlich) (6:59)
8  Underground/Overground (Marty Ehrlich) (7:16)
9  Eliahu (Marty Ehrlich) (6:31)

Marty Ehrlich, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, flute, wooden flutes
Vincent Chancey, French horn
Erik Friedlander, cello
Mark Helias, bass
Don Alias, percussion

All compositions published by Dark Sounds Music (BMI), except Spirit of JAH, published by Dark Sounds Music (BMI) and Perla Music (ASCAP), and Mudpie Anthem, published by Radio Legs Music (BMI).

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