

Biographical details of Tomohisa are hard to come by. No official record of his birth exists but it is believed he was born somewhere near Mashike on Hokkaido, the northern most island of Japan sometime in the late 1930s possibly even as late as 1940. Why his origins are so obscured may in part be explained by the stories that he was of Ainu origin. Over the centuries Ainu had been enslaved and successive Japanese governments had sought to subsume them in the ethnic Japanese population. Tomohisa's generation concealed this background for fear of prejudice. It is not until the last few decades and the international recognition of the world's aboriginal communities that the Ainu have begun to reclaim their identity as the indigenous inhabitants of Hokkaido.

Tomohisa himself gave only one interview during his career, typically revealing nothing of his musical background or his pioneering work with electronic instrumentation. The interview instead speaks obliquely of his 'nemawashi' approach to composition: a gathering together of disparate ideas to develop an organic and seemingly unstructured form. However, the recordings themselves belie a surprising range of influences including familiar western composers such as Debussy and Ravel and allusions to non-classical European folk traditions.

These recordings were discovered on a range of tape formats stored amongst Tomohisa's personal effects. The precise dates of recordings are unknown although an approximate indication may be gathered from the tape stock. Since Tomohisa frequently reworked pieces as he sifted ideas and musical figures, many exist in multiple recordings. In all cases, the latest version is presented here although an attempt has been made to place them in chronological order of initial composition rather than recording. Modern digital mastering techniques have been used to restore them to optimum quality while preserving the integrity of Tomohisa's original mixes.

ACID WILHELM

LEARN TO SWIM

MICHISHIGE TOMOHISA

## GOLD COINS FOR A CAT

SIDE A: Access Visitor [02:51] • Archetrave [06:05] • Castlerigg [03:17] •  
Wassail [01:06] • Green River [03:04] • Perdonesta [02:31] •

SIDE B: An Old Story [03:49] • Fool is Hurt [03:09] • The Moon in a Tree [03:10] •  
Gold Coins for a Cat [03:53] • Gentlemen and Crows [07:13] •

Written, arranged and performed by Michishige Tomohisa.  
Remastered by Acid Wilhelm

Component equipment used by Tomohisa for this album:

### SYNTHESIZER

VCS3  
Ugo Texture  
Ugo Rez  
Unmet Ozcan Genesis  
Alionoctis 1b  
TAL Elek7ro  
TAL U62  
u-he Zebra  
Voltkitchen Minimogue  
Majken Chimera  
TAL Vintager  
LinPlug Alpha3  
Steinberg CS40  
SuperWave P8  
Ichiro Toda Synth1

### ACCESSORY

Redtron  
Evolution 449C  
xverb  
Karlette  
Steinberg DoubleDelay

Cat. No. LTS03

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MICHISHIGE TOMOHISA  
GOLD COINS FOR A CAT