

One drop city

Photography and words on the flow of connections between water and music

Water Music, by Marjorie Ryerson,
University of Michigan Press, Michingon, 2003

In its liquid ability to shift into so many imaginable shapes, its sense of flow and passage of time, water makes visible many of the qualities of music. Water has inspired musicians for millennia, even if Pythagoras' oracular vestiges say he talked of music being frozen stone. Today there are – probably as ever there was – any number of music people inspired, drawn by and immersed in, this the most immediately magical of the earth's materials.

Marjorie Ryerson is a New England photographer, who fell under the spell of water and its shape-shifting qualities. Realising the connection to music Ryerson has tracked down sixty-six musicians, pre-dominantly from America, and asked them to contribute an essay, a poem, some notation, or a few words about their feelings of connection between water and music, to sit alongside Ryerson's pictorial journey into water photography, *Water Music*. The result is a book of poetic, musical and factual accounts of these musicians relationship to water, beginning early in life with Vladimir Ashkanazy remembering he experienced a sense of eternity the first time he saw an ocean, and Tan Dun, who views water as a metaphor for the unity of the eternal and the external,