



Artist: **Bernard Bonnier**  
 Title: **Casse-tête**

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This reissue brings to listeners of concrete and electroacoustic musics and to all those with deep ears a fleuron of Canadian auto production. It enlightens the exemplary work of composer Bernard Bonnier, born in Montreal in 1952, who died in 1994 in Lévis, Québec, at the early age of 41 years.

Bernard Bonnier had a good time, literally, when he accomplished this atypical and cheerful disc. *Casse-tête* is a bizarre and enjoyable music world conceived with various percussions and electronic instruments. In 1984, year of its release, five years after its creation, it appeared as quite a foolish records. It may still remains like that today. As some of his contemporaries – Robert Moog, Jean-Jacques Perrey or Raymond Scott – Bernard Bonnier produced strange and funny sounds out of computers and synthesizers in his Saint-Jean Chrysostôme’s studio, Amaryllis. Following the steps of Pierre Henry with whom he collaborated from 1970 till 1975 – he collaborates on “*Cortical Art 3*” – the composer explores and dares. He composes songs which wobble between the seriousness of his musique concrete education and the playful exploration of the existent possibilities of the musics of his time. Blending field recordings, mid 70’s Quebec Jerk, powerful sense of « dance » music, extra humor and auto derision, he defines his musical language, unique and powerful. The impact of such an hybrid work remains strong for the curious minds despite the passing years. Forgotten by the most, his death in a young age not helping to build his notability, Bernard Bonnier however gave to the world one of Canada most brilliant exploratory records, *Casse-tête*.

**For those who do enjoy:**

Pierre Henry, Luc Ferrari, Christian Clozier, Jacques Lejeune, Perrey & Kingsley, Jean-Pierre Massiera, Cluster, Felix Kubin, Patrick Catani, Ergo Phizmiz, Shazam



1	«I Can't Sing...»	6m07s
2	Le grinçant Mr Smile	5m15s
3	Véro-la-Toto	5m28s
4	Blue Marine (1978)	5m12s
5	La demoiselle au corsage vert	7m13s
6	Italian Junk Food	5m30s
7	Soldier Boy (1973)	11m22s
	total duration	46m07s

2008 CD

Mastering : Ludovic Bonnier (Bernard Bonnier’s son)  
 Revisited Design : Eric Mattson

1984, Notes from Original LP : Amaryllis press release...  
 Musicians:

Bernard Bonnier: electronics, programming, percussions, concrete sounds, and gadgets.

Michel Mercier: percussions.

Recorded and mixed by Bernard Bonnier at studios Amaryllis, St-Jean Chrysostôme except «Soldier Boy», at studios Apsome, Paris.

« Contrary to an electronic music delighting itself in soaring above reality in self abstraction, the concrete music of Bernard Bonnier has a down on earth hearing, and a dancing too, although now and then out of beat. Bernard Bonnier has defined chameleon-music as: «...a mime\* trying to beat its path through the puzzle (*Casse-tête*: literally “head-breaker”) of soliciting madness, sundowns, violence, science, love, death, Velveeta cheese, competition, sex, Zen, and Mandragora.»

This must be true as well of Soldier Boy, an issue to the motion: “nothing lost, everything regained”. each and every single sound hear trough this piece has been made from the loop “tell me why...” by means of electro-acoustic manipulations, the mark of Bernard Bonnier’s concrete music.

Following the steps of Pierre Henry, Bernard Bonnier has been a forerunner to new-wave, and other “underground rock” music.”

Aulnes Périn, February ‘79