"Capricorn Skies"
By Richard Charlton © 96

A work in five scenes, for treble guitar, 2 standard guitars & bass commissioned by Guitar Trek with financial assistance from the Australia Council, the Federal Government’s Arts Funding Body.

(Dedicated to Tim Kain & the members of Guitar Trek.)

Composer’s Notes

Capricorn Skies was completed in November 1996 and is an attempt to capture the mood or resonance of a variety of Australian skies and landscapes. Many Australian painters say that the light is "different" here and having witnessed many of its colours I would agree that it is unique! Whether it be sunsets in the Northern Territory, a Sydney skyline turned ashen from bushfires, a twilight sky teeming with bird life or the amazing clarity of the stars over the sea on a beach far from city lights.

The titles of the movements speak for themselves as to their mood and character but the work as a whole is built on a short, two-part motto, heard at the beginning of the 1st movement. This is the germ or seed that gives rise to all the other themes. Capricorn Skies is also "cyclic" ie. themes from one movement appear in other movements. The 4th movement is recorded on the Guitar Trek CD “A Sky for Dreaming” (ABC Classics)

The movements are:-

The Southern Cross over a black sea.
Meridian Termite mounds with magenta sunset.
Ashen sky with dark sun.
A sky for dreaming.
Opal sky with birds.

Richard Charlton 1996