

**HYMAProject**

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**From:** "HYMAProject" <thirdear@iafrica.com>  
**To:** "Bill & Rhoda Hanley" <rhodarosenberg@juno.com>  
**Sent:** 21 February 2003 10:22  
**Subject:** Rhoda & Bill - The Hanley Sound Story - Dreams is where it all begins

Dear Rhoda, Bill & Joe,

Well yes...the serenity of Boston snow. I loved my brief encounter with it too. Over here it's Autumn and it swelters around the 40 degree plus mark. I'm trying to work and watch the cricket at the same time - the world cup is currently being played over the next 6 weeks here in South Africa - and can you imagine being those players out there for 8 hours? (And that's the so-called shortened version of the game! The real tests are 5 days at 8 hours a pop.) You can tell I'm a cricket fanatic!

What goes 'round comes 'round as they say. Bill looked after me in the USA and as a result music history in SAfrica was not only made, but it changed many lives as well. And as the cycle (or is that revolution?) goes, if we can't do it for ourselves then maybe we do it for the children?

Coming out here would be something for Joe to work towards perhaps? - without disrupting his studies. If he wanted to spend a week or two (or more) in Africa, he will be well taken care of. It wouldn't cost him a cent. All we need is the airfare. That of course applies to you and Bill too. If we had the means we'd have booked you all over here a long time ago.

Arlo should make an adventurous move to the USA. But I don't think he will for some time yet. You're right, he and Joe could connect. Dylan would love to work in the USA, but he & Lara (still in London) are expecting their first baby at the end of June - so travelling for him would be out for a time. He's still setting up sound (for conferences mainly) all over England.

And Rhoda, I know what that missing something is! It's the Bill Hanley Story of Sound.

The reason it's nagging - and I know because I can talk from recent experience and I'm still struggling to pass that stage - is that taking a bite out of the reality sandwich is pretty daunting; how to survive while you do it?

You know, I know, we all know, the book has to be written, but how do you eat in the meantime? The sad thing is, that by the time all those around us wake up to this reality, it could be too late. People told me 20 years ago. Write the book. I thought, what the hell, there's no hurry and besides the rent has to be paid. Suddenly I look around me and notice that many of those people that I needed to talk to are slowly dropping off the edge of the world; the tapes are oxidizing, the photos are fading and the old memory banks aren't as bright as they use to be. And those that don't know, are re-inventing history. Ironically, I'm not a romantic - I'm a futurist, I think; I don't want people to either re-invent or live in my past. (As my friend Jeremy Taylor says - remembering the past is one thing. Living in it is another one altogether.)

But thank goodness for technology and, in my situation anyway, that fact that I kept journals and diaries, took photos and pressed record whether I was allowed to or not. (And I've NEVER issued a bootleg or an illegal recording, as tempting as it may be and as broke as we've been.) But keeping track and archiving, or remembering and collecting is still not enough.

In Bill's situation he has connections to some of the most legendary names in music history - and they all had their journals, diaries, photos and recordings done or kept for them. What you - or somebody has to do - is get on your bicycle, find funders / backers / patrons - and do it! There must be people around who remember and who have the means; who know the music history in the USA and who can see the value - both in monetary and historic terms?

Every month, since I stopped doing shows, recording and producing myself, we get ulcer pangs from sailing at the edge of the reality storm - between banks, iceberg landlords, telecommunications departments, the schools and the clothing stores - yet this Hidden Years Story has to happen. And if we don't do it - write or tell the story - then people who don't know and who follow us, see the fast

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buck and re-invent history to fit their bottom line. (I suppose that's why they are in business and we're not?)

So that's what's missing Rhoda. Bill won't do the story himself; will he? And if you can't do it, somebody else must. Maybe my story would encourage you?

I'm not a real-writer (I'm a musician who mixes), and there's noway that our Hidden Years Story will reach the audiences that a sound book about Bill would. Yet there are many in this small SAfrican market who believe what I'm doing is important. So what I do is look for patrons / investor / donors - those fairy Godmothers and fathers that somebody says are out there somewhere??? They can help me pay the rent while I self-indulge - or self destruct - and write, collect and complete a tiny slither of hidden history? (3rd Ear Music's archive funders only support the music archive; all the stories about music under apartheid etc.) However, I'm eternally hopeful. There's even talk of a Hidden Years movie now - a horror thought for me - but it could help us generate business interest and pay the rent. I don't do visual - I do audio. As I understand it, your situation is not unlike mine.

As you may know, my book - although I'm a year behind and counting - has been signed (by Penguin for the world), in two parts; and if it does take-off outside of Southern Africa, which is highly unlikely, and if there is time, my next project would be to figure out a way to write the Hanley Sound Storybook. That is if you haven't already done it by then. It'll take time and it won't be cheap to do, but together I am certain that we could write and / or compile a winner; even if somebody else writes it. Point is, if you don't do it, somebody else will! Do you think that's what you are missing?

Has Terry & Judi seen the sound bits on our website? Sound African Safari and Sound Soweto? As I have suggested (often) to Judi, if she and Harold and Terry ever have a moment, it would be wonderful for them to maybe add something to the story of sound as they heard it.

Love from us all and to Judi, Harold, Terry n' all as well.

#### The Marksists

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The HYMAProject has been kindly supported by the Bartle Arts Trust (BAT) March & April 2002. The South African Norwegian Education & Music Programme (MMINO), The National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC), Terry Rosenberg. The National Lotteries Board 2002 / 2003. The Bleeding Heart Restaurant & Bistro London for their contribution & support. 3rd Ear Music thanks them all for their support of the Arts in SAfrica & the Hidden Years Project in particular.

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