



HI newsletter, 6-23-26

[HI](#) greetings to all!

Sad news in the world of Household Ink, and in the world generally... our beloved collaborator and veritable guru Dick Dunlap has passed onto the next chapter. The great and creatively vibrant life force (as musician, fine artist and human) dealt with cancer for five years and finally took his last lap, and last breath, on June 2 in the beloved Chez Dunlap compound in Santa Barbara, Calif..



In his last days, Dick found some consolation in knowing about the soon-to-drop archival project *Confirmation* was soon to arrive in CD form, replete with some of his artwork, liner notes (see below) and photos by his late and beloved life partner, pianist Arlene. CDs are up and out as of now.

The album, curated by Dick and his caring nephew Glen, is the third in a series of archival compendiums, after the solo piano improvisation *Intersphere* and *Arlene Rising*. More to come and be thankfully resurrected from the treasure trove of his unreleased music...



(photo: Paul Wellman)

For a fuller fount of info on Dick's remarkable and artistically resplendent life, proceed to this obituary written by his grand-nephew Jayden Casebeer, in the Santa Barbara *Independent* [link](#).



www.householdink.com/dickdunlap/

www.dickdunlap.com

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(*Confirmation* liner notes...)

Wayback Machineworks, Ripe in the Now

Good things come to those who wait, with open ears and minds. *Confirmation* is the second in an ongoing series of collections of electronic music works by Richard “Dick” Dunlap, amounting to a fruitful buried treasure project in progress. The latest culling of diverse pieces--composed, arranged and performed by Dunlap over a period of time dating back to the 1990s--is, well, a confirmation of the promise put forth on the first collection in the continuing series, *Arlene Rising*.

By turns minimalist, cinematic, experimental and even agreeably and artfully romantic at times, *Confirmation* achieves dual citizenship in a historic past and timeless present/future. Despite the archival nature of some of its sonic attributes, this music speaks and sings to us in a language both accessible and adventurous: a characteristic Dunlap-ian duality, going into the Wayback Machine.

From a standard brand perspective, Dunlap is a complicated bunch of people. He is a superb pianist/ keyboardist whose grasp ranges from different corners of jazz to new music and experimental side roads. He is an internationally-traveled sound artist, painter and artist whose broad-minded palette includes installation work. And yes, Fisher-Price toys and rubber bands. For fine art's sake.

From another, more aesthetically holistic perspective, Dunlap's various components cohere into a larger meta voice as a creative force.

Confirmation comes as a satisfying glimpse into what lurks in the Dunlap music vaults. Another diverse garden of pleasures awaits the listener, whether piecemeal or savored in full-bodied, front-to-back sequence. The sweep of the opening "Confirmation" (not to be confused with Charlie Parker's bebop gem), contrasts with the exploratory venturing of the solo piano track "Curved Space," expanding outward in textural palette and pulse on the affirmative tone painting "June Song."

We sink into the burbling sonorities and massaging pulse of "Mimetic Asasas," and then sidle up to the chamber-esque qualities of "Nocturne" and the ambient enigma zone of "Bone Flute."

True to Dunlap's gently subversive tendencies, he closes rather than opens the sequence with "Overture," three-minutes-and-change worth of a miniature summation and overview... of *something*. As if in a journey through his own past, teasing sprinkles of Fisher-Price toy sonics breeze through, along with other fleeting musical and "field recording" impressions. What's it all about: a notion, an aspiration in progress? The ambiguity beguiles, as in most great art.

On this archival collection (more to come), Dunlap also respectfully nods to his late, great pianist and long-loved and long-standing wife "Arlene B," also a centerpiece of "Arene Rising," both as tribute subject and composer-pianist herself. She also supplied some of the artwork for the *Confirmation* CD design. Fittingly, "Arlene B" unfolds like a lyrical and majestic hymn, with a surprise rising coda, a benediction to lives well lived and artfully played.

--Josef Woodard, May 24, 2026