

# Mike Heron, Beautiful Stranger

John Cale: piano, harmonium, brass arrangement

Pat Donaldson: bass

Gerry Conway: drums

Tony Cox: VCS 3

Soft lapped the bark boats  
A wounded shoulder hurt me not  
Snake - like branches quietly hid my eyes so bright in the swamp-red sun  
Soft edged the foreign words  
Coloured by the dark waves splash in the mist  
Brown the breasts and purple-stained  
Dye deep-pounded with the stone  
The warm wind now lifts the haze  
I looked and I caught my breath  
And I raised my head up high  
And I shouted out loud in my soul  
Beautiful stranger I'm glad I found you

Bright the sky above my head  
Streaked with red and yellow wing  
Warm the mud between my toes  
Darkest green the inland trail  
Distant now the bark boats  
Golden beads on silver wire of sea  
Long bathed by salty spray  
Visions float on the dry earths smell  
Drifting back through younger days  
I looked and I caught my breath  
And I shouted out loud in my soul  
Beautiful stranger I'm glad I found you

Moist and cool the river bank  
Laid me down against a tree  
Remembering as in a dream  
Shoulder cut in the dark waves splash  
In that place no wound there was  
Only a ring of finest bronze there gleamed  
Soft lapped the back boats  
Brown the breasts and purple stained  
River green reflect the gaze  
I looked and I caught my breath  
And I raised my head up high  
And I shouted out loud in my soul  
Beautiful stranger I'm glad I found you