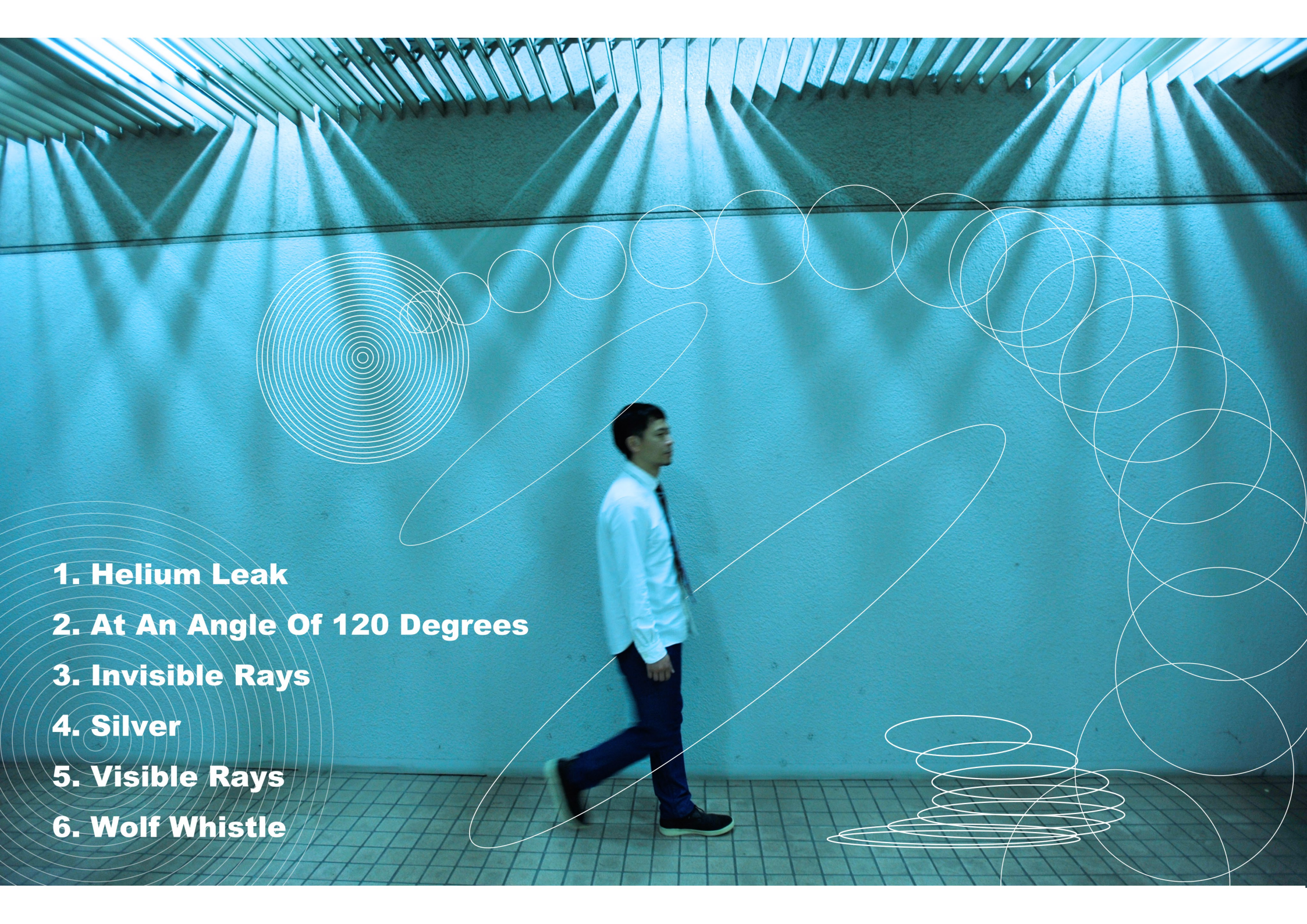
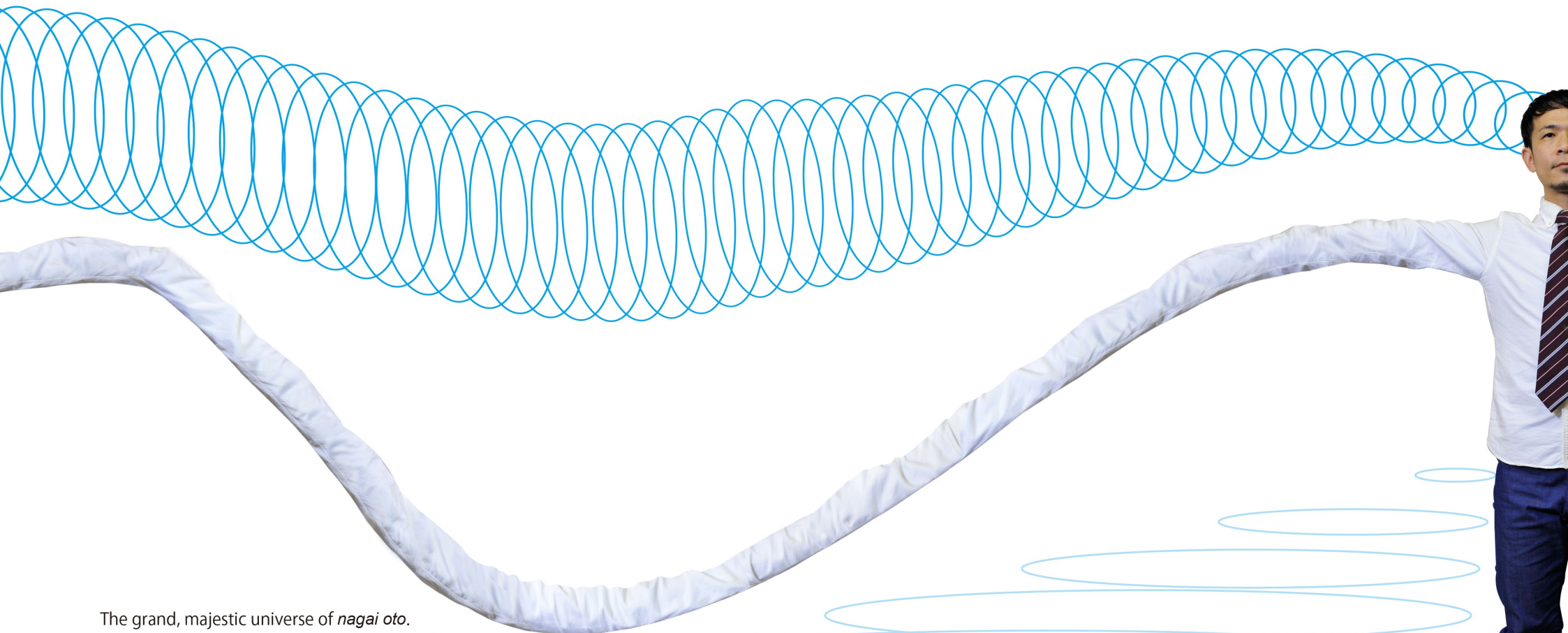


Ring

TOMZUIN H

- 
- 1. Helium Leak**
 - 2. At An Angle Of 120 Degrees**
 - 3. Invisible Rays**
 - 4. Silver**
 - 5. Visible Rays**
 - 6. Wolf Whistle**



The grand, majestic universe of *nagai oto*.

Nagai oto [literally long tones] is a Japanese term that evokes portamento glides, legato passages, and ambient / environmental sounds — notes that sustain and connect and blend together in a never-ending aural kaleidoscope. To my mind, when a sound rings steady and constant, it's like a light gradually intensifying in strength, and when the sound finally changes and modulates, in that instant, a precious, impassioned storyline unfolds.

For this collection, my goal was to corral these *nagai oto* into musical compositions with the help of a renowned cast of musicians who added their own distinct flavor to the sonic stew.

I feel blessed, and not a little proud, to have assembled a cast as unconventional as it is talented: Hajime Sakita, one of Japan's foremost instrumentalists, played the musical saw; Ko Ishikawa performed on the *sho* bamboo pipe, an eerie, edgy instrument from the realm of Japanese *gagaku* court music; Kaori Tsutsui, a composer in her own right, showcased the clarinet; Yuji Ohno & Lupintic Five member and guitar prodigy Satoshi Izumi lent his amazing fingers; and Masatoshi Katsumata came in from the world of film to act as supervising sound editor. My beloved Prophet-5 and its tricky polyphony rounded out the cast.

I hope you enjoy these *nagai oto* compositions as much as I enjoyed creating them with this cast.

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Cast Members by Track

1. Helium Leak

Hajime Sakita — Musical Saw

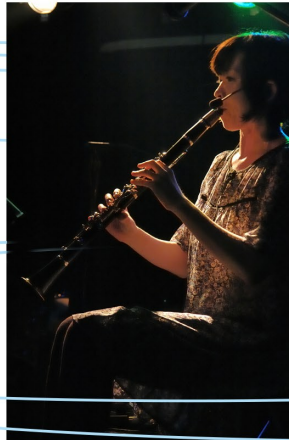
Hajime is so celebrated as a musical saw performer that he's been ranked the world's best twice. His saw produces sounds that awaken the entire spectrum of human emotions, sounds that blanket you like a comforting mist as you drift across the Sanzu into the pleasant afterlife. That a tool for cutting wood can build such provocative sounds is incredible.



2. At An Angle Of 120 Degrees

Kaori Tsutsui — Clarinet

The clarinet has a very special timbre that sets it apart from other instruments. The odd-numbered harmonics that make up the single-reed's tone color are quite clearly contrived. And yet the clarinet's tone is a masterpiece of human-engineered sound. Thanks to her effortless control of the instrument, Kaori's performance is both graceful and acrobatic, reminiscent of a circus trapeze artist.



3. Invisible Rays

Prophet-5

The Prophet-5, alongside the Minimoog, is the most famous analog synthesizer in the world, and it's probably the most profitable synthesizer of all time too. Where the Minimoog is monophonic however, the Prophet-5 has five-voice polyphony, which means it can play chords. Polyphony made the instrument a standout when it was released in the late 70s, and its diverse sound textures and unvarnished, irrepressible tones still surpass today's synthesizers.





4. Silver

Ko Ishikawa — *Sho*

The *sho* bamboo pipe brings to mind a beam of light shining in the darkness, aspirations, and a silver sky. Each breath blown through the instrument, each modulation in the sound, is like a signpost.

This ancient instrument from Japanese *gagaku* court orchestras consists of 17 slender bamboo pipes. Each of the pipes reconstitutes the radiance of a unique word. When several of the pipes are played together, the resulting chord is staggering in its luminosity.



6. Wolf Whistle

Satoshi Izumi — Electric Guitar and Acoustic Guitar

Although his guitar sound is unrepentant rock — a sound that longs to romp around like a delinquent bunny, Satoshi's lifestyle is the farthest thing from your unbalanced, decadent rocker.

5. Visible Rays

Masatoshi Katsumata — Sound FX

Some sounds are more realistic than reality. This is the work of a man who has been projecting exacting, three-dimensional sounds onto the film world, a man who can make you see a man riding a bicycle in a daydream.



Produced by TOMZUIN H
All songs written by TOMZUIN H
Recorded, mixed and mastered by TOMZUIN H

Hajime Sakita: Musical Saw (M1)
Kaori Tsutsui: Clarinet (M2)
Ko Ishikawa: Sho (M4)
Masatoshi Katsumata: Sound FX (M5)
Satoshi Izumi: Electric Guitar and Acoustic Guitar (M6)

Art Direction & Design: Miho Ikeda
Photograph: Keita Ikeda

Thanks to:
Craig Leonard, Kaori Harada

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www.tomzuih.com



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Ring

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