

DRAGON RAGE

Music inspired by Bruce Lee

While I was at the latest Bruce Lee Educational Foundation meeting in Las Vegas, April 2000, it was my pleasure to meet an accomplished martial artist and musician. His name is Luis Santos. Apart from giving me an insight into his own philosophies of life, he shared with the whole assembly of over eight thousand people, the music he had won an award for, and that had been inspired by Bruce Lee.

Instead of giving an overview of how Luis reached his goal, I thought it best for him to tell you his own story as he told it at the recent Dragon Expo 2000 in Seattle. So read on.

Andrew Staton
Co-ordinator to Bruce and Brandon Lee Association

First of all, I want to thank Linda and the Bruce Lee Educational Foundation for inviting me again to present my work Dragon Rage. I also want to thank John Little for all his works which opens windows to the depth of Bruce Lee's legacy. His works have been very enlightening.

I would like to take this time to tell you about the inspiration behind Dragon Rage. When Bruce Lee's movies came to the Philippines. His name spread like wildfire, everyone heard his name mentioned like it was the latest buzzword, "Bruce Lee." I heard his name before I saw his movies. When we finally saw the movies, our jaws dropped in awe of this new hero. We were so inspired by that enigmatically magnetic presence. My friends and I would see his movies over and over again after school. Even after he passed away, which shocked everyone, the impact of his presence continued to grow. I was pretty young then, his movies was all I knew about him...but little did I know that his impact on my life have just began.

I came from the island of Mindanao, in Southern Philippines which has been plagued by the age old religious wars, So I was made aware at an early age of the extremities of cruelty people are capable of. Like in some neighboring towns, violence was a way of life. The gruesome stories and images made an imprint on my psyche. So I always had my own struggle in defining the true essence of the warrior spirit. In my quest for the spiritual side of martial arts, I often asked, how can a discipline which can involve violence be a part of anything spiritual? I tend to associate it with its root word, war. When I was in my teens, we use to roam the streets looking for trouble or trouble would find us. I use to carry this long weapon,

which look like an oversized ice pick. I carried it, with no clue if and how I would use it.. I carried it because we faced weapons in the streets, I figured I had to have one. One time, the group I was with got in a rumble. I ended up facing two opponents, one drew a knife. So I drew this weapon out, and it apparently shocked him and they both took off running.

Instinctively, I chased them both down and caught up with one of them. And I struck at him. I missed him thank God by this much. And it really scared me. I happened so

fast. Had it been a gun it would have gone off just as fast. Ever since then I never carried a weapon on me. In a way, I consider martial arts to be that kind of weapon that one may have to be prepared to use.

At the age of 20 I left the Philippines, to escape a life that was headed for trouble, and moved here to America in 1980, It was then, when I experience a bit of what Bruce Lee went through.

The racial stigma that he diligently stood against. It really affected me. I began to delve into his work, adapted as much as I can of his physical and mental discipline. I trained religiously for years, perhaps I was seeking refuge with, what I saw in my limited understanding, that beautiful, display of rage. I was tapping into the powerful energy

he harnessed. It was perhaps a way of discovering myself and channeling that warrior spirit. It gave me a lot of focus and strength. It was an important time of my life.

But then I hit a point where, the training and discipline started to affect my frame of mind, so much so that I had to walk away from it. I left the martial arts to pursue other avenues of art, Ironically it was around this time, in a nightclub in Vancouver, Canada where I accidentally bumped into this belligerently drunk individual who was looking for an excuse to fight. He started taking wild swings at me, the whole place was watching this scene. All I did was back up, he was not



a trained fighter, he was telegraphing every single move, I kept backing up until I hit a wall behind me. As he came towards me, I snapped a side kick on his solar plexus just enough to stop him, not to take him down.. He stood there motionless, from the change of his expression, we both knew the line was drawn. The bouncers like cops in movies came after and threw the guy out. A group of people came and sort of patted me in the back, and told me, "We can see you are not into violence."

I actually felt a little disappointed initially, that after all the training I did for counter strikes. All I did was avoid being hit. But, after some time, I thought more about this and I told myself that if there was ever I time I should feel like a true martial artist, that would be the time. I began to see martial arts under a different light. Perhaps I've grown to another level of awareness. Last year, one of the speakers told of a similar story of Bruce who, later in life approached challenges or clashes with so much assurance that he did not have to fight to prove anything. I began to learn that true essence of the warrior spirit is more about a special kind of vigilance, to be ready for any contingency, and far removed from violence or the atrocities of war. Like in many cultures, to be a warrior is a state of manhood. A Taichi teacher once said to me, martial arts is a time and space management, you don't want to be there when trouble comes, whether it is a punch or a situation, or perhaps redirect what's coming at you. So the warrior spirit, I saw, can be channeled in many different facets of life.

In my case I found it to be true in artistic expressions. I have produced multimedia shows over the years but I have always wanted to do a multimedia tribute to Bruce Lee, as a way to express gratitude to his spirit for helping shape my life.

Two years ago, there was a Music Composition Competition at the university I was going to. At the time I was working on a piece called Dragon Rage, which was inspired by Bruce Lee's powerful imagery. It was the most difficult piece of music I worked on because it was quadraphonic, meaning it was set for multi-speaker format similar to surround sound. I was also trying to implement a lot of variables of combat to the music, broken and jagged rhythm, unpredictability, and the element of surprise. The piece won the First Prize in the competition, and I set it to stage with live martial arts, musical, dance performances, with synchronized lights, with slide projections of dragon, and other images of Bruce. And the video you are about to see was projected as a central focus. This was done in an educational environment. It was successful, very well received.

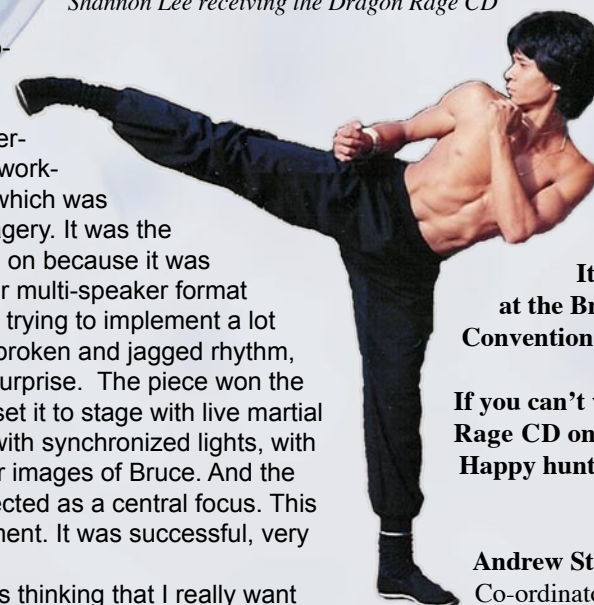
But it never felt complete to me. I was thinking that I really want



Luis A Santos' first meeting with Linda Lee Cadwell



Shannon Lee receiving the Dragon Rage CD



to share it with people who knew Bruce, and people who study his art, and but especially with his family. I did not know how to send it to them. So I went to Dan Inosanto's dojo in Los Angeles. My wonderful meeting with the man is a story in itself. Anyway, I gave him a copy, and I gave him another copy to send to Linda. (Triangulate) And he thanked me and told me "I'll make sure she gets it."

Sometime later I received a letter from Linda, which I'll forever treasure, thanking me for the package and invited me to come to Seattle last year which I did. The original show had so much complexities, technical demands, that it was decided to present the video, minus the live elements.

I want to read to you what I had in program which is also on the CD called Dragon Rage dedicated to Bruce Lee, I am releasing tonight... Dragon Rage...

In light of his own words, please allow me to express myself honestly in offering my gift to you, Linda, Shannon, and to the memory of Brandon, to the Jun Fan Jeet Kune Do Nucleus, to the Bruce Lee Educational Foundation, and to all of us gathered here for the Dragon Expo 2000 whose lives have been touched by the great spirit, Bruce Lee.

Thank You.
Luis Santos



After Luis had given his biographical speech, the audience was held spell bound by the music and images which surrounded the large room and that blasted at them from all corners. At the end there was a hearty round of applause and praise for Luis' work especially from Linda Lee Cadwell.

It is hoped to recreate this atmosphere at the Bruce and Brandon Lee Association Convention in November 2000.

If you can't wait that long, you can buy the Dragon Rage CD on the internet at www.dragonrage.com Happy hunting...

Andrew Staton
Co-ordinator to Bruce and Brandon Lee Association

PERSISTENT VISION

DRAGON RAGE

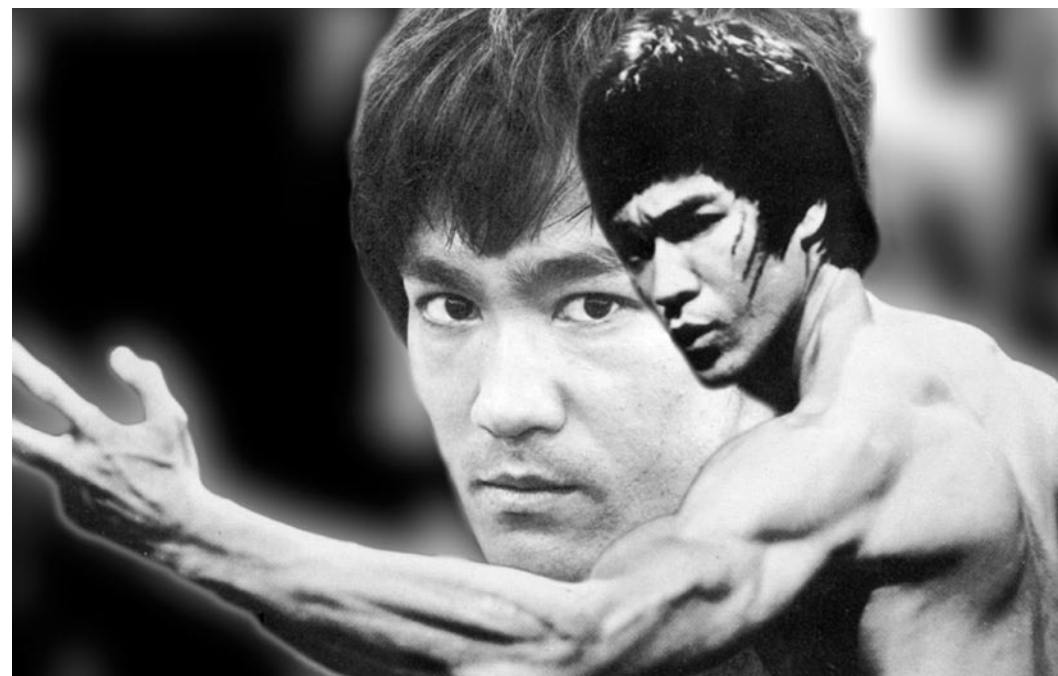
(Luis A Santos)

The dragon as myth and symbol has reverberated throughout history from many different corners of the world. Tales, beliefs and artistic representations can be traced to the earliest recorded mythologies, thus its form and significance evolved through many permutations. Artists, poets, and storytellers continue to explore the fascination these mythical beasts exert on the human imagination.

Bruce Lee, who was born in the Year and the Hour of the Dragon, became a major Asian star as he created a paradigm shift that broke the social barriers adversely present in Western cinema during his time. He rocked the world of martial arts by forging his mind, body and spirit to become a physical phenomenon. A true warrior, he faced many challenges and fought many battles with opposing forces. Like a meteor, he vanished. However, he was a man of victory, fueled by inner manifestations that tested limits and pushed envelopes, an icon who made an impact on millions and for decades to come.

Celebrating the warrior spirit, this piece is a tribute to martial arts legend Bruce Lee, the Immortal Dragon.

For every myth there is a grain of truth.
-Joseph Campbell



DRAGON RAGE

Great spirits have always encountered violent oppositions from mediocre minds.

-Albert Einstein



www.dragonrage.com

First Prize winner of the 1998 Electronic Music Competition at California State University, Chico, this piece is originally a quadraphonic soundtrack for a multimedia project of the same title which was a tribute to martial arts legend Bruce Lee. Performed on stage at the Music and Electronic Media Concert at CSU, Chico the piece which incorporated martial arts, dance and live musical performance, video and slides projections was presented in the 1999 Bruce and Brandon Lee Memorial Banquet held in Seattle Washington and in the Dragon Expo 2000 in Las Vegas.

Programming, Keyboards, Guitar, Audio Engineering, Sound Design: Luis A Santos •

Keyboards, Programming: Marcel Berteaux •

Percussion: Zachary Cowan, Ernest Witt, Brian Fruetinicht •

Technical Support: Jack Anderson, Darryl McElMurry, Oik Kwon, Dave Shields •

Vocals: Tamara: Allspaugh, Paul Yoch •

PERSISTENT VISION

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 FLYING DREAMS
 TRESE
 MANY BRAINCELLS AGO
 BREATH OF GAIA
 DAWN DREAMING
 ANCIENT SUBTERRANEAN ECHOES
 VECTORS THROUGH A VORTEX
 PLUME DANS LE VENT

Produced and Engineered by Luis A Santos and Marcel Berteaux.
 Mastered by Jay Harper, Bernie Grundman Mastering.

www.midaircrossing.com

*Dedicated to martial arts legend
 Bruce Lee, the Immortal Dragon*

DRAGON RAGE (Luis A Santos)

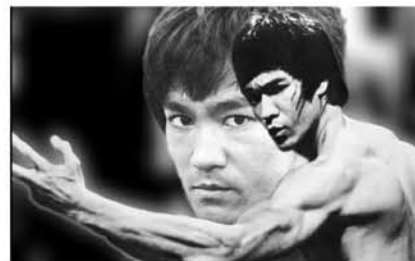
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FLYING DREAMS (Luis A Santos)

Guitar Solo: Doug Forman • **Keyboards, Programming, Sound Design:** Luis A Santos • **Keyboards, Programming:** Marcel Berteaux • **Percussion:** Terry Carr • **Synths:** Don Dickinson

TRESE (Luis A Santos)

This composition was commissioned for a musical based on

Great spirits have always found violent oppositions from mediocre minds.

– Albert Einstein

the Book of Revelations. This piece which incorporated live performances with electronic sources was composed for Chapter 13 of the Book of Revelations, the coming of the Beast.

Programming, Guitar, Sound Design, Audio Engineering: Luis A Santos • **Keyboards, Percussion:** Marcel Berteaux, Terry Carr, Mike Woolchuck • **Vocals:** Paul Yoch, Tamara Allspaugh, Darby Shields, Brian Francis, Ron Pate, Pam Thornton • **Vocal Conducting:** Mary Lou Lim

MANY BRAINCELLS AGO (Luis A Santos)

Rebirth Programming, Guitar, Keyboards, Sound Design, Audio Engineering: Luis A Santos • **Programming, Keyboards:** Marcel Berteaux • **Technical Support:** Alain Renaud

BREATH OF GAIA (Luis A Santos)

Another piece originally quadrophonic was a multi-media presentation of the same title. This meditative piece explores an all acoustic spatial, music and sonic experience set to a visual collage of live performance of Yoga sequences with the projections of mandalas and computer-based color cycling as an organic response to the dynamic movements of the music.

Sound Design, Audio Engineering: Luis A Santos • **Himalayan Bells, Bowls, Crystals:** James Beattie, Marcel Berteaux, Luis A Santos • **Gongs:** Brian Fruetnicht • **Breath:** Neil and Nancy Weigmann • **Vocal Toning:** Jean Hanson • **Technical Support:** Jason Roberson

DAWN DREAMING (DEDICATED TO SKY DANCER, DEANNA KENT) (Marcel Berteaux/ Luis A Santos)



Soundtrack for Midair Crossing, a film collage of Norman Kent's skydiving footage.

Keyboards, Programming: Marcel Berteaux • **Keyboards, Guitar, Programming:** Luis A Santos

ANCIENT SUBTERRANEAN ECHOES (Marcel Berteaux/ Luis A Santos)

Synthesizers, MIDI Programming: Marcel Berteaux • **Keyboards, Sound Design, Audio Engineering:** Luis A Santos

VECTORS THROUGH A VORTEX (Luis A Santos)

Keyboards, Programming, Guitars: Luis A Santos • **Keyboards, Programming:** Marcel Berteaux

PLUME DANS LE VENT (FEATHER IN THE WIND) (Luis A Santos)

Percussion: Marcel Berteaux, Mike Woolchuck • **Programming, Guitars:** Luis A Santos • **Vocals:** Darby Shields



"all things want to fly..."

Original Drawings by Gregg Payne & Marcel Berteaux
Graphics by Marcel Berteaux
Graphic Design by Earl W. Jessee

www.midaircrossing.com

Session players' courtesy, on their own recognizance.

Thanks to Dr. Raymond Barker, Darryl McElMurry, Don Dickinson, Mitch Satterfield, Chris Ficken, Dan Craik, Joe DiMaggio, Keith Seppanen, Alain Renaud, Toby Roye, Jack Anderson, Gregg Payne, Earl W. Jessee, Brian Francis, Jeff Goolsby & family, Jason Roberson, Paul Yoch, Tamara Allspaugh, Jay Harper, Dave Shields, Oik Kwon, James Beattie, Sue Pate, Lisi Caren, Richard and Betty Berteaux, John Spangler, the Phippens, the folks at Seasound and the Santos circle.

Gratitude also to Universal Studios, Media Asia and Warner Brothers.

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Special thanks to Linda Lee Cadwell and the Bruce Lee Educational Foundation.