

Klaus Dinger + Japandorf "Japandorf"

Release : March 25 2013

All songs recorded by Kazuyuki Onouchi at Lilienthal Studio and at Zeeland Studio except 2. 7. and 12. by Miki Yui

Mixed by Kazuyuki Onouchi at Lilienthal Studio Düsseldorf 2010,

Mastering by Kai Blankenberg Skyline Tonfabrik 2012

Produced by Klaus Dinger, Co-produced by Kazuyuki Onouchi and Miki Yui

Photography Klaus Dinger and Miki Yui, Kazuyuki Onouchi and Masaki Nakao

Front Cover Hand writing by Klaus Dinger, reworked by Miki Yui

Artwork Walter Schönauer and Miki Yui 2013

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Story of "Japandorf "

"**Japandorf**" is the last **Klaus Dinger + Japandorf** production, which Klaus Dinger (1946-2008) was a pivotal part of. In fact "**Japandorf**" is the perfectly accomplished third album of a series of three albums in total, which were produced since 2000 by the likewise named project **Klaus Dinger + Japandorf**. The two predecessors of "**Japandorf**" are called "**pre-Japandorf**" and "**VIVA Rimix 2010**" and are yet to be released.

According to the manifesto like character of his song **CHA CHA 2000** (1978), Klaus was even in the beginning of 2000 still after a special kind of musical collaboration to attain a unique sound, which would suit the upcoming millennium. For his new project, he opened his studio in 2000 to various fine artists and musicians for spontaneous recording-sessions. Through an artist friend Nakao, Klaus got introduced to Japanese musicians and artists living in Düsseldorf, especially the sessions together with them had a dense and exciting atmosphere. "Nakao opened the door to **Japandorf**" Klaus said. From these sessions the new project **Klaus Dinger + Japandorf** emerged.

On from the beginning of their partnership Klaus, Kazu, Nakao, Miki and Satoshi besides playing music, had spent a lot of time together camping, cycling, being close to nature, discussing, in order to slowly broaden the musical scope.

Klaus' basic idea for these recordings was to be working together with a collective of collaborators who would have a background in fine arts rather than being technically skilled instrumentalists. This process of developing music took some time, but the results are surprisingly fresh and unique.

Klaus once said, he would like to pass on his artistic experience to younger generation. Although Klaus has been pressured by financial needs during the 7 years of "**Japandorf**" production, he would devote all his passion and time to the project and also cared about the members, let them challenge and gain experiences through the creative process.

Lyrical and musically the album "**Japandorf**" focuses on the city of Düsseldorf and specially on its Japanese community, which Düsseldorf is internationally well known for since the early 70s.

All rehearsal and recording sessions from 2000 until 2006 took place at either Klaus' Zeeland Studio at the seaside in the Netherland or at his Düsseldorf Studio which were located nearby the airport.

Most of the songs on "**Japandorf**" were finally recorded in 2007 at Zeeland Studio. Another few recording sessions took place in February and in March 2008, with only Klaus, Kazu and Miki. On 21. March, just before the album was to be finished, Klaus suddenly passed away due to a heart

attack. Miki, Klaus' partner, became his heiress and finished the three albums together with Kazu in 2010.

"**Japandorf**" is a uniquely magical, optimistic, refreshing and beautiful album. Definitely another Klaus Dinger manifests.

Description of the songs

1. "Immermannstrasse" (2'37)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi, Satoshi Okamoto 2007 words by Masaki Nakao, Miki Yui 2008
Onouchi dr / Dinger gt bass / Okamoto key / Nakao vo / Yui vo

Since the early 70s Japanese companies set their european branches in Düsseldorf, which became the biggest Japanese community in Europe at that time. Immermannstraße was soon to become the heart of the Japanese community in Düsseldorf.

Klaus became familiar with Immermannstrasse through Kazu and Miki and was inspired right away to start writing a song about this street.

2. "Doumo Arigatou" (0'36)

soundscape recorded by Miki in Düsseldorf

Field recording from a Japanese bookstore on Immermannstraße

3. "Sketch No. 1_b" (4'45)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi 2008 Onouchi dr bass / Dinger gt

As the title tells, this is a sketch recorded during the winter session in 2008.

Klaus had played these songs repeatedly over the years, structuring them by playing together with Kazu.

4. "Udon" (5'09)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi, Satoshi Okamoto words by Masaki Nakao 2007

Onouchi dr / Dinger gt bass / Okamoto piano / Nakao vo / Yui vo

Nakao, one of the few close friends of Klaus, joined the recording sessions in Zeeland studios in summer 2000 and cooked Udon, a japanese noodle soup for dinner. During this night, after a bottle of Tequila they went into studio when suddenly Klaus started to play guitar and announced into the microphone "now Nakao will tell us how to cook Udon". On the spot, Nakao sang "Udon" from scratch without any previous preparation. After the first recording in 2000, "Udon" was finally finished in summer 2007.

5. "Kittelbach Symphony" (5'26)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi, Satoshi Okamoto 2007

Onouchi dr / Dinger gt bass / Okamoto piano / Nakao perc / Yui perc

Klaus grew up in a working-class part of Düsseldorf called Unterrath, where, as a child, he caught small fishes in a brook called Kittelbach. Kittelbach leads into river Rhein, which is kind of a spiritual home for Düsseldorf. Klaus had this song in mind for a long time and enjoyed to play its chords frequently on guitar.

6. "CHA CHA 2008" (12'35)

music + words by Klaus Dinger 1978/2008 Onouchi dr synth / Dinger gt vo / Yui vo synth

During one of the last winter sessions in 2008, while working on new songs with Kazu on drum, Klaus suddenly started to play "CHA CHA 2000" which the two used to play together often in 2000. Last "CHA CHA 2000" played by Klaus Dinger.

7. "Ai" (0'12)

words by Klaus Dinger 2006

Klaus explaining the Japanese character on the front cover, which means, "Love".

8. "Sketch No.4" (10'10)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi 2008 Onouchi dr bass / Dinger gt

As the title tells, this is a sketch recorded during the winter session in 2008.

Klaus had played these songs repeatedly over the years, structuring them by playing together with Kazu.

9. "Spacemelo" (5'35)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi, Satoshi Okamoto 2007 words by Miki Yui 2008

Onouchi dr / Dinger gt bass/ Okamoto key / Yui vo

Miki originally composed this song in 2001 for her solo album "magina" (released from Hören/Osaka 2010). Klaus heard it and immediately liked it very much. He turned the melody upside down (kind of backwards) on guitar and created another song with the same title. It was after Klaus' passing that Miki finally finished her lyrics and recorded them.

10. "Karnival" (4'10)

music by Klaus Dinger, Kazuyuki Onouchi words by Klaus Dinger 2008 Onouchi dr / Dinger gt bass vo

Drums, guitar and bass were recorded during the last winter sessions in 2008, few weeks before Klaus' passing. At first there was no idea that this song would end up as a "Carnival song".

Shortly after the Carnival celebration (which takes place in Düsseldorf every year in February), Klaus suddenly said that he would like to sing on it. While recording the first vocal take, Klaus came up singing "Karneval, Karneval!". What a surprise! A humorous song about the popular traditional event in Düsseldorf / Cologne region.

11. "Osenbe" (2'59)

music and words by Klaus Dinger 2007 Dinger gt / Nakao vo / Yui vo

Osenbe is delicious rice cracker made in Japan.

The song was recorded in Zeeland beside the outdoor fireplace in the garden.

12. "Andreaskirche" (0'32)

soundscape recorded by Miki in Düsseldorf.

Field recording of the church bells of Andreaskirche in the very center of the historical Altstadt. It was the particular church where Klaus was a member of the choir in his youth.

Members

Klaus Dinger_ guitar, bass, vocal

Kazuyuki Onouchi_ drums, synthesizer, bass, recording + mixing engineer.

Satoshi Okamoto_ keyboard, piano

Masaki Nakao_ vocal, percussion.

Miki Yui_ vocal, percussion, synthesizer.

Weblinks

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