



DUNKELZIFFER

SONGS FOR EVERYONE



Reissue (originally released 1989)

CD / LP / digital

VÖ: 19. November 2021

Nachdem Bureau B seine Dunkelziffer Werkschau mit den Alben "Colours And Soul" und "In The Night" began, freuen wir uns mit "Songs For Everyone" auch das letzte Studioalbum der Band, das 1989 erschien wieder zugänglich zu machen. Ohne ihre einstige spirituelle Heimat (der Stollwerck Komplex wurde 1987 eingeebnet) und zu einem Sextett geschrumpft, mutet "Songs For Everyone" stromlinienförmiger an als die Vorgängeralben.

Olek Gelba und Reiner Linke verblieben am Schlagzeug und den Percussions, um weiterhin den Boden für Von Sengers und Schuberts melodische Figuren zu bestellen, gemeinsam mit den Neuzugängen Jorge Guarin Quintaro und Irene Lorenz, die dem Klang von Dunkelziffer an den Tasten und gesanglich frischen Wind einhauchten.

Zwar ging mit diesem reduzierten Line-Up auch die chaotische Brillanz ihrer früheren Arbeiten verloren, jedoch ließen die sparsam eingesetzten Farben mehr Raum für jedes einzelne Mitglieder heller zu scheinen als je zuvor. Vor allem Dominik Von Senger, in der Vergangenheit oft auf die Rhythmusgitarre beschränkt, bespielt diese neu entdeckten Räume mit einer Fülle rhapsodischer Soli. Stilistisch sind die jamaikanischen Riddims, der knorrige New Wave und die fernöstliche Tonalität der früheren Alben, geschmeidigem Jazz mit lateinamerikanischen Nuancen und einem mediterranen Charakter gewichen.

Displaced from their spiritual home (the Stollwerck complex had been levelled in 1987) and robbed of the collaborative exchange it facilitated, Dunkelziffer took a different tack on 'Songs For Everyone', slimming down to a sextet with a newly streamlined sound. Olek Gelba and Reiner Linke remained in the percussive pocket, laying the foundation for Von Senger and Schubert's melodic prowess, with newcomers Jorge Guarin Quintaro and Irene Lorenz breathing fresh air into keys and vocals respectively. The reduced line-up may have diminished the chaotic brilliance of their earlier work, but the sparing palette allowed room for each member to shine brighter than ever before. Most notably, Dominik Von Senger, often restricted to rhythm guitar in the past, populated the newfound space with a bounty of rhapsodic solos. Stylistically, the Jamaican riddims, gnarly new wave and Eastern tonality of previous albums were supplanted by the smoothest jazz imbued with Latin flavours and a Mediterranean mindset.

Arriving amid a ripple of taut timbales and spritely trumpet, opener 'Songs For Everyone' sounds like it's been playing somewhere forever, just waiting for its moment of discovery. Lorenz' stretched and subdued vocal seems to be a transmission from another time or place, meaning stripped but emotion enhanced by the time we receive it. The rounded sound of guest Xavier Padilla's double bass dominates the bottom end, a familiar anchor as the mariachi keys and incendiary guitar try to spirit us away. Light-footed and heavily syncopated, 'See It' sashays along the shoreline, inviting us to dance wherever blue seas kiss white sand. Each instrument is crisp, clear and accomplished, while Lorenz voice swells from a sultry whisper into a rich rasping fullness. Optimistic and melancholic in equal measure, 'Illuminate' closes the A-side with a triumph of pure pop sincerity. Taut guitar and trilling oboe leap above the swaying bossa to pull at your heartstrings, capturing the precise moment when love overtakes you.

The smooth jazz sophistication continues on the B-side with 'Friends', a gorgeous Balearic torch song for a rose that's never been kissed. Echoes of 'Lucky Star' and reverb-soaked drums cascade through a DX7 dreamscape as the plangent woodwind plays an elegy for summer fling. On 'Spell It' the cowbells, congas, timbales and toms of Gelba, Linke and sessionist Daniel Basanta form an intricate rhythmic tapestry, transformed into a hip-flexing mambo by the addition of Guarin Quintaro's piano. Schubert and Von Senger form a gorgeous melodic counterpoint throughout much of the track, before Von Senger soars into a show stealing solo in the last minute. Dunkelziffer close the LP with Jamaican flavour, though 'Inside' is a much more atmospheric creature than the sun-kissed skanks of their previous releases. Largely stripped back to a core of dubby bass, sparse rhythm and subdued piano, this evocative swan-song splits the difference between Compass Point and the Wild Bunch, its muted vocals and distorted guitar anticipating the trip hoppers who would soundtrack the decade to come.

As the 80s came to a close, Dunkelziffer signed off, their various members continuing to explore the backstreets of the musical map with the curiosity, creativity and freedom which makes their story so unique.

- Patrick Ryder



Tracklisting:

1. Songs For Everyone
2. See it
3. Illuminate
4. Friends
5. Spell it
6. Inside

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BB379

CD 206642
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LP 206641
EAN 4015698202571