



RIECHMANN – WUNDERBAR

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The Essentials

- Wolfgang Riechmann played together with Michael Rother (NEU!) and Wolfgang Flür (Kraftwerk) as early as 1969
 - *Wunderbar* was Riechmann's first (and only) solo album. It contains elements of the Berlin School (Tangerine Dream) and of the Düsseldorf School (Kraftwerk, La Düsseldorf, NEU!), and yet has hypnotic, spherical qualities all of its own
 - Shortly before the release of the album (1978), Wolfgang Riechmann was the random victim of a knife attack and died as a result of his injuries
 - The booklet features rare photos and liner notes by Asmus Tietchens
 - Release auf CD und Vinyl
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The Bureau B release of Wolfgang Riechmann's *Wunderbar* unearths an absolute gem of German electronic music. This album, however, is beautiful and tragic in equal measure, as Wolfgang Riechmann fell victim to a knife attack just three weeks before the LP went on sale. He was stabbed in the chest in a chance encounter with a drunk in Düsseldorf's Altstadt, the perpetrator "letting off steam" after a dispute with the landlord of his local pub, as he later recounted in court.

Wolfgang Riechmann's career as a musician did go all the way back to 1969, which was roughly when he met Michael Rother (NEU!, Harmonia) and Wolfgang Flür (Kraftwerk), who would be his colleagues in the Spirits of Sound group. Later on he played with Phönix, before going on to record two albums with Streetmark, who enjoyed great popularity at the time. From November 1977 onwards, he devoted his full attention to the *Wunderbar* LP.

On his first and, regrettably, last recordings as a solo artist, Riechmann was in an eclectic mood. Distant echoes of the so-called Berlin School (Tangerine Dream, Klaus Schulze and the like) can be detected on *Wunderbar*, as well as the clear influence of the so-called Düsseldorf School (NEU!, Kraftwerk, La Düsseldorf). Not that Riechmann was attempting to copy their styles in any way. Whilst contemporary influences need not be denied, *Wunderbar* hints at the direction he would take in terms of sound and composition, reflecting a powerful, independent musician's personality, one which would have caused quite a stir, had it been given the chance to unfold.

This unmistakably optimistic music is characterized by simple sequencer and drum patterns, with Riechmann adding his own highly individual layers of harmony. And then there are the melodies: simple, sometimes to the point of being simplistic, but never naive. »Wunderbar« is modern, electronic pop, in a league with Kraftwerk and NEU!.

Bureau B is set to release the album on CD and vinyl, both featuring rare photographs and liner notes by Asmus Tietchens, one of the original pioneers of electronic music.

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