

FoSava
Metamorphosis

VÖ 7.11.08 by KOM 4 Medien
www.sava-music.com



“Sava invites you on a journey through countries and ages”, describes Birgit Muggenthaler-Schmack, the intention of her solo project SAVA. The apprenticed flutist and expert for historical wind instruments is well-known as composer, lyric-writer and instrumentalist of the German folk-rock band Schandmaul. With the very same band, the 34-year-old musician made it up to position no. 8 in the German Media Control Album Charts in spring 2008. Now she is presenting the 2. album of her project Sava called “Metamorphosis”. Transformation – a word as international as this music itself. A word that reflects the groundbreaking arrangement of old texts and traditional treasury of songs. A word that, not least, terms the influence of music on human beings. “At least since Schandmaul has cooperated with the German Center for Music Therapy Research (Deutsches Zentrum für Musiktherapieforschung, DZM e.V.) I became increasingly aware of this aspect of music. The successes of cure which are achieved there through music are unbelievable, that is some kind of transformation, too.”

But back to Sava. If you accept the invitation and betake yourself to a journey through space and time, you will find yourself in various places in your mind's eye: in a Spanish market place, on Ireland's green meadows, on the steep rocks of the Scottish Highlands, at the French court...

With incredibly versatile instruments, soft-melancholic as well as virtuosic-temperamental impressive scenarios are being drawn. In an instant, harp and flute are having a gentle dialogue, at the next moment the bagpipes, guitar and percussion raise their sounds to a finale furioso.

Here the hurdy gurdy is resounding with Birgit's emotive voice, there choires and a string quartet are forming a dense sound layer. Like a painting, many acoustic colours add together, constantly revealing new details.

The seemingly never-ending imaginativeness of the largely own compositions originates, among other things, from Birgit's travel experiences and her contact with international music. "Sometime, somewhere all over the world I hear a melody and years later it might reappear, 'transformed' my way", she says, aiming at the album title. "My foreign language skills make it possible for me to deal with texts, may it be a French poem, an English traditional song or a Spanish poetry, as it has happened here." For the pronunciation and translation of Old Welsh and Icelandic texts, Sava got help from Nordistik and Gaelic students.

Sava's music can't be forced into a certain pattern. Somewhere between folk and world music with elements that remind of medieval or sometimes even early baroque compositions, the musicians slash themselves a way on this musical journey. "Here, all the musical hearts that beat in me come to light", Birgit tells glowingly. At first there were many years of classical education for flute, transverse flute, piano and contrabass and her graduation as a certified conductor, which is her basis, her tools of the trade, as the young musician explains it. Then she discovered the folklore and attended numerous workshops and seminars (i. a. Olle Gerris, Matthias Loibner, Peter Rabanser, Dermot Hyde, etc.), in order to pick up elements of international folklore. Not least did the musical work with the medievalist Oliver s. Tyr, mastermind of the band "Faun", shape her. With him she betook herself on a search for traces of medieval music at the end of the 90s. Today, with harp, bouzouki, key fiddle and guitar, the 34-year-old is her most important partner for Sava.

Other guests have joined on this way, among them Stefan Klug (Fiddler's Green), Anna Katharina Kränzlein (Anna Katharina, Schandmaul) and Rüdiger Maul (Faun).

The recording and production rested on Thomas Lindner, frontman of Schandmaul. "By now, Thomas has 10 years of experience in dealing with extraordinary instruments and lip-reads every wish for the right sound", tells Birgit enthusiastically. Hence, a dreamlike tour group for "Metamorphosis", a multifaceted, matured, "musical journey", from which you do not really want to return home too quickly.

Studio musicians:

Birgit Muggenthaler-Schmack: bagpipes, flutes, whistles, hurdy gurdy, vocals

Oliver s. Tyr: Celtic harp, bouzouki, guitar, key fiddle

Anna Katharina Kränzlein: violin, viola

Stefan Klug: accordion, bodhran

Rüdiger Maul: percussion

Alexandra Hartmann: pedal harp

Johannes Schleiermacher: cello