

From Frank Zappa, the number Pi and free creativity

New album by Wolframklug & Yassmo'

Elsfeld/Bonn – October 2022

Wolfram Klug meets Yassmo' and presents their new album "Speaking To Ray", which the two, who met on an online jazz show, have produced over the past 2 years.

As with the album "Burt, the Nerd" (winner of the German Rock and Pop Award 2014), former band members of the legendary composer, musician and free spirit Frank Zappa are on board.

Ray White and Robert Martin (both on vocals) have been integral parts of Zappa's touring band for decades and have contributed to many of his studio albums.

Klug has been a Zappa fan since childhood and infected his new musical partner Yassmo', the Bonn soul singer, keyboardist and composer with the Zappa virus - the result was "Speaking to Ray": 9 tracks from the genre of soul and funk, garnished with one Pinch of jazz and of course Zappa-esque elements.

The two took on three Zappa titles and reinterpreted them with a groovy sound. "We don't want to sound like Zappa and we don't want to insist on it, so as not to strain the name. We only do what we like in the studio in the moment and what we stand for 100%," says Klug. And Yassmo adds: "We leave outside influences and expectations at the door when we withdraw to our creative sessions." Klug adds: "We have and enjoy this complete artistic freedom. For us it's about absolute artistic/musical self-realization, just "without restrictions."

Another example of this artistic approach is the title "Pi". Here Wolfram Klug, who also studied mathematics, converted the mythical number Pi (3.1415...) into a melody.

"The 3 represents the third of the scale, the 1 the root, and so on." This, plus rhythmic variations, resulted in a melody worth listening to, which Yassmo' vocally brings to life.

The artistic freedom mentioned is probably a question of attitude to life, character and practical circumstances. Both artists make their living outside of music, which gives them more freedom in their creative development. (see below)

In the course of the production, other artists from Bonn and Cologne were added. All well-known musicians from the jazz and soul scene:

Bruno Müller (guitar) - Till Brönner, mezzoforte and is a lecturer at the Cologne University of Music

Günter Asbeck (bass) - Udo Lindenberg, Robin Beck, Gregor Meyle, Gloria Gaynor, Vincent White

Richard Munchhoff (drums) - Audrey Martells, Steve Clarke, Wenzel Beck

Oscar Kliewe (trumpet) - Winner of X-factor, EES, Maceedo

Johannes Kuchta (percussion) - Voyager IV

The artistic drawings on the CDs cover have been made by Munich artist Bernd Rodenhausen.

The album with 6 original tracks and 3 Zappa compositions can be ordered online as download or as a physical CD at musicfromutopia.com. Common streaming services are also offered here.

Personalia:

Wolfram Klug (b. 1967, lively in Elsenfeld, single)

Studies: mathematics, computer science and sports science

Lived in Geneva from 2022-2017 where he worked as Business & Technology Director at the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

Founder and Managing Director of Seedion since 2010

Advises Olympic sports federations on digitization

Bass player with Aschaffenburg Jazz Big Band, FLAB, Soulfood, Thin Lizzy Tribute Band and various bands in Geneva/Switzerland

This is his 5th CD.

Yassmo' alias Christian Ottens (born 1961, lively in Alfter near Bonn, married)

Studies: Business Administration

Founder and operator of the funk and soul label Yassmotionrecords

Soul singer, keyboardist, composer and arranger under the pseudonym Yassmo'

Has released 5 of his own live and studio albums and numerous EPs to date.

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