

Press Release:

Film-Music Gala in honour of Prof. Willy Sommerfeld

11.5.1904-19.12.2007

To commemorate his death, there will be a Film-Music Gala

on Sunday, February 10nd 2008, 7:00 pm, at the
ufaFabrik, Viktoriastr. 10-18, 12105 Berlin, U-6, station: Ullsteinstrasse

to pay tribute to Prof. Willy Sommerfeld, the last original silent movie pianist from the 20s, who died in December at the age of 103, check the attached flyer for the event or at www.ashra.com.

Programme:

The evening will be opened by a screening of the internationally acclaimed movie THE SOUNDS OF SILENTS (2006) by Ilona Ziok, which was rated a „filmhistorical sensation“ by the FBW and, is loved by critics and public alike. The movie depicts the life of Prof. Willy Sommerfeld and features „The man at the Piano“ himself. Then, Manuel Götttsching, “the man at the computers and on electronics”, will perform live to the silent movie THE HOUNTEED CASTEL (SCHLOSS VOGELÖD, 1921) by F.W. Murnau.

Afterwards, we invite you all to toast to the memory of Prof. Willy Sommerfeld !

For information about Prof. Sommerfeld, the movie and about everyone involved, including pictures and the trailer, please visit:

www.willysommerfeld.de

Next to being recognised as one of the founders of electronic music (Berlin School of Electronic), as a composer and one of the greatest guitarists worldwide, Manuel Götttsching is also the producer of this movie – and husband to award-winning director Ilona Ziok (who also signed responsible for: Kurt Gerrons KARUSSELL, Der Junker und der Kommunist a.o.).

Willy Sommerfeld personally inspired Manuel Götttsching to experiment in the field of silent movies during the production of THE SOUNDS OF SILENTS.

His "soundtrack" to SCHLOSS VOGELÖD - the original film score has been lost - Manuel Göttsching composed first for a chamber orchestra and electronics, recording it with musicians of the State Theater Brunswick. A selection of the music was released in 2005 on the CD CONCERT FOR MURNAU: <http://www.ashra.com/disco/1a52co.htm>.

The premiere of the work, *live on Electronics*, took place at the Breslau Opera house in 2006. You can find additional information on the performance here: <http://www.ashra.com/news.php?m=A>, scroll to the 23rd of June 2006. To select the video excerpts click on the link <http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&VideoID=26681769>.

In 2007, Manuel Göttsching was invited to Korea by the curator of the only film-music festival in Asia, director Park Chang-wook (OLD BOY), where he was celebrated by an audience of 3000 ecstatic spectators. Information and photographs to be found when you click: <http://www.ashra.com/news.php?m=A>, in the entry for 24.8.07.

When the idea came up to electronically accompany SCHLOSS VODELÖD as a tribute to the late Willy Sommerfeld in Berlin, Manuel Göttsching enthusiastically accepted – not least because of the fully convincing concept, which followed the development of music in movies, starting with the timbral improvisations of the 20s, as demonstrated by Prof. Sommerfeld in THE SOUNDS OF SILENTS, and culminating in Göttsching's electronic and computer-generated sounds.

Should you be a fan of Manuel Göttsching but find the subject of silent movies utterly uninteresting (we are aware that this is possible ☺ , you can simply enjoy the wonderful music with eyes closed from your comfortable movie chair – or look at SCHLOSS VOGELÖD as a "different kind" of video-Art ☺ ☺ ☺

Information on Manuel Göttsching, incl. a biography, photographs, music and video excerpts: www.myspace.com/manuelgoettsching, www.ashra.com

And last but not least there are plenty of good reasons for the Gala Event to take place at the ufaFabrik:

This place, known in the past as the UFA-studios, in Berlin-Tempelhof are closely connected to the history of films in Berlin and Germany. While it gained fame in the 20s thanks to expressionist movies, Goebbels used it during the Nazi-era to spread "News", in terms of his propaganda. After the war, it was home to the postproduction facilities of the UFA, before they were closed down. Since the late 70s, the location has experienced an Indian Summer as an internationally renowned arts centre:

www.ufafabrik.de.

Since the 80s, Willy Sommerfeld played to mostly young fans there, accompanying silent movies such as METROPOLIS, NOSFERATU, DER GOLEM.

In 1978, Manuel Göttsching used the location for sessions to his legendary album CORRELATIONS (Virgin Records, 1979):

<http://www.ashra.com/disco/1a22ma.htm>. Recordings of those sessions were released on his label MG. ART in 2005 under the name THE MAKING OF: <http://www.ashra.com/disco/1791co.htm>. The 3CD-Box has sold out immediately and has turned into an on-demand collectors item.

So that's how the stories come full circle – and we hope you'll join our circle of friends at the Gala Event to honour Prof. Willy Sommerfelds ☺ !

Please don't forget to register (Press) or to order your tickets in advance (regular guests), as there is only a restricted amount of seats available:

Phone: 030-75 50 30

Mail: vorbestellung@ufafabrik.de

I Almost forgot the most important thing:

The Entrance Fee of 15 € will be donated to the restoration of the musical archives of Willy Sommerfeld.

Everyone involved is taking part for free!

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