

KOSMISCHER LÄUFER: VOLUME THREE**THE SECRET COSMIC MUSIC OF THE EAST GERMAN OLYMPIC PROGRAM 1972-83****SLEEVENOTES****CAT No: (UCKL003)**

Unknown Capability Recordings is proud to present the third selection from the **Martin Zeichnete** archive documenting his secret work - writing music to train and inspire East Germany's athletic elite.

This collection comes in two parts. Side One is a three song running program at 164BPM. The energetic warmup track *'Zeit Zum Laufen 164'* (1979) is followed by Zeichnete at his most hypnotic, on the 10 minute, motorik, rolling *'Jenseits des Horizonts'* (1977). This set ends with the elegiac *'Für Seelenbinder'* (1975), a song dedicated to Olympic wrestler and communist hero **Werner Seelenbinder**.

Side Two of Volume Three is an interesting departure from Zeichnete's usual work as it features a soundtrack to a lost animated film. In spring 1976 Martin learnt that the **NOK der DDR** hoped to launch a bid to bring the 1984 or 1988 Summer Games to East Berlin. Excited by this prospect he returned to **DEFA** in Dresden where he and an animator colleague conceived *'Traum von der goldenen Zukunft'* (*Dream Of The Golden Future*), a 20-minute cartoon they hoped could be used to promote the bid. The film would feature Zeichnete's otherworldly music and a 'sci-fi' aesthetic jokingly dubbed 'psychedelic socialism' by the pair.

Here Martin Zeichnete recalls the events surrounding the recording:

MZ: *'I was at one of the training camps near East Berlin in about April 1976 and heard some of the officials discussing the possibility of the government backing a bid. I immediately had the thought that I could do something for this. I spoke to my supervisor and he reluctantly agreed to let me at least put a proposal together.*

On my return to the animation bureau in Dresden I spoke to my colleague E.M. and we quickly put a story together. As usual we thought we were being subversive and clever, me with my music and E.M. with her artwork.

I recorded in the small studio at DEFA Dresden on my own so the music was completely electronic. I also used one piece, 'Ankunft im Stadion', which had been recorded in Berlin with other musicians a year earlier but I had not found a use for.

Meanwhile E.M. had been busy with character design and storyboarding the film we had decided to call 'Traum von der goldenen Zukunft' (Dream Of The Golden Future). She also produced a short one or two minute sample animation to show NOK the aesthetic we wanted to achieve. I remember there was a title sequence and some shots of the children flying over the stadiums. We also tried to

emphasise the more patriotic elements of the story. This would be the Trojan horse for our more 'difficult' artistic ideas.

On my return to East Berlin a month or so later I was excited to show the officials what we had worked on but it was dismissed almost out of hand. I suppose I was not surprised. Looking back now it was obvious there was no way the government could afford to put on such an event and was just wishful thinking from some NOK members.

Again my dealings with these people had left me frustrated and dispirited. I put this music aside but eventually would use some of the melodies for my regular work, particularly for gymnastic and ice skating I remember'. - JUNE 2015

'Traum von der goldenen Zukunft' — May 1976 — SYNOPSIS

We meet 13-year-old Werner who lives in East Berlin and 10-year-old Sabine who lives in the countryside. Through their eyes we see different aspects of life in the socialist idyll of the DDR — farming, busy factories, strong families etc. They are both members of sports clubs. Werner wants to be a runner and Sabine aspires to be a gymnast. We see them going to their beds and we enter their world of dreams.

Their dreams take them to the year 1984 and the Olympic Games which are being held in East Berlin. They fly over the city in 'energy globes' and see the incredible, futuristic stadiums that have been built. They begin to explore. Werner hovers above the stadium and watches the athletes of all nations parade around the track. Sabine's energy globe is floating under the Olympic pool. She looks up in wonder to see the swimmers glide above her. Werner is now looking down at the 100-metre final. The race is won by a DDR athlete. He realises it is his 21-year-old self. Sabine is above the gymnastics arena. She sees a DDR athlete score a perfect 10 on the floor. It is her at 18. Both children are now above the main stadium to see Werner receive his gold medal. We see that athletes from across the world have come together in peace through sport. The children see each other in this shared vision and wave. In a swirl of colour and sound they awaken back in 1976. Inspired by their dreams they go to train. The sunrise is golden — END

DREW McFADYEN UCR - *'As with much of Martin's work we only initially had a very low quality cassette copy of 'Traum von der goldenen Zukunft'. The tape contained about half of the actual soundtrack along with various cues and outtakes. We were surprised and delighted over Christmas 2014 with the news that Martin's engineer colleague, who had digitised Martin's music in the 90s, had managed to track down the separate tracks for the whole set. This immediately changed our plan for Volume Three's release as we felt this soundtrack as well as being fantastic showed a different side to Martin's work. Martin also managed to get back in touch with his former DEFA colleague E.M. and she managed to dig out a few of her old sketchbooks with some of her initial 'Traum von der goldenen Zukunft' ideas'. - JULY 2015*

Zeit zum Laufen!