



ANDREAS DORAU

Demokratie (+Bonus)

Originally released 1988 on Ata Tak (WR43)
CD / LP (180g vinyl) / download

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Tracklisting:

01. Immer nur warten
02. Sei steif!
03. Demokratie
04. Sucht eure Tat
05. Taxi nach Shibuya
06. Blume 86
07. Tradition
08. Frauenfüße
09. Stehst du an der Himmelpforte
10. Na, du alte Kuh
11. Ein Liebesraum
12. Ein Fall für Dr. D
13. Immer noch warten
14. Willi im Busch
15. Ein Tropfen geht ans Land

Bonus:

16. Menschenschicksale (1st Version)
17. Ein Liebesraum (Remix)

Discography:

- 1981** Blumen und Narzissen
1983 Offenherzige Antworten auf brennende Fragen
1988 Demokratie
1992 Ärger mit der Unsterblichkeit
1994 neu!
1997 70 Minuten Musik ungeklärter Herkunft
2005 Ich bin der eine von uns beiden
2011 Todesmelodien

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Key facts

- Andreas Dorau, born 1964, is a marvellous pop musician, equipped with the choicest humour and the gift of creating wonderful melodies. Aged 16, he wrote the huge hit "Fred vom Jupiter" and has been championed erroneously as representing German New Wave (NDW) ever since.
- After a five year hiatus, Dorau rediscovered his musical mojo in 1988. Influenced by the sounds of the sixties, he presented the "Demokratie" album, arranged by Michael Nyman, a set of fantastic pop songs with rousing, at times bizarre, arrangements.
- Reissue in digipak with liner notes, rare photos and **two bonus tracks**
- available on CD, vinyl (180g) and as download

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German New Wave (Neue Deutsche Welle, NDW) reached its peak in 1983. In the public eye, Andreas Dorau was considered an important representative of NDW. But the sensitive artist had no desire to be thrown in the same basket as the terrible monstrosities of what had become a commercially exploited trend. Not that he felt any closer to the contemporary "underground" music of the day. "All far too dark. I didn't want to have anything more to do with music. Back then underground music wasn't allowed to be melodic. The dominant belief was: melody = stupid. And I wanted melodies."

Dorau turned his back to the music business and moved to Munich and took his film studies seriously. Until one day Ata Tak founder Moritz Rrr called him up and asked Dorau if he fancied an informal exchange of ideas with artists from Berlin, no strings attached. He did fancy it and slowly but surely, he began to have fun again with music. At the same time, Dorau amassed a formidable record collection, largely from the 1960s. And so names like The Left Banke, Van Dyke Parks and The Move rotated on his record player. Such splendid music! The idea to make a new album dawned on him gradually.

Dorau recorded, discarded material, wrote lyrics, overdubbed, arranged, discarded more material. So, he would rearrange, one track after another, so on and so forth. It was clearly a painstaking process. Still, a few songs fell into place. What he needed now was a producer. Off he went, to Birmingham to enlist his idol Roy Wood (The Move, ELO) as his producer. It could have been the beginning of a beautiful musical collaboration, if Wood had not happened to play an album by his favourite artist at that time. Dorau was back on the train to London before the first side of "No Jacket Required" had ended.

Efforts to enlist Peter Thomas as producer also came to nothing and Dorau ultimately decided to take care of the job himself. David Cunningham (Flying Lizards) helped Dorau to enlist the English composer Michael Nyman as arranger on "Demokratie". Playing his songs to Nyman was a nerve-wracking experience for Dorau. After all, this was a serious musician. "Maybe it's crap", Dorau stammered. To which Nyman replied: "Oh no, it's Mozart." Music to his ears, so to speak. Why an arranger anyway? Dorau: "I always wanted music to sound different. Nyman is strongly influenced by Venetian music, in which instruments are played in untypical registers or scenarios. That was my aim for this album. I wanted to create pop music, as far as possible without guitars, simply different."

Baroque pop / Roy Wood / Michael Nyman / melodies / no guitars, or thereabouts / electronics / Mayo Thompson also gets in on the act: an interesting mix? No, it's Mozart!