



# ASMUS TIETCHENS

## DER FÜNFTHE HIMMEL



Collection of outtakes from 1980–1983

CD / LP (180g) / Download

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**Distributor:** Indigo  
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### Tracklisting:

- 1 Fast Food
- 2 Futurum drei
- 3 Soirée
- 4 Zum Tee bei Frau Hilde
- 5 Würgstoffe
- 6 Niedermacher
- 7 Lebende Regler
- 8 Flut
- 9 Hertzlicht
- 10 Kreuze des Südens
- 11 Vom Pol zum Metropol
- 12 Atommacht Indien

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### Key info:

- Asmus Tietchens is one of the most renowned German artists in the abstract music scene. He began by recording a handful of Residents-influenced synthesizer albums, launching into a peerless mix of stuttering beats and off-kilter harmonies which earned his music the generic tag “**pseudo pop**”. *Der fünfte Himmel* reaches back to a time before and after the so-called Zeitzeichen phase, gathering up **unwanted or rejected pieces, the ones considered unsuitable or simply left behind**.
- Available on CD (Digipak), vinyl (180g) and for download

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Between 1981 and 1983 Asmus Tietchens released four albums on the Sky Records label, fusing rhythmic set pieces and off-kilter sounds into gaudy escapades of saccharine artificiality. The “pseudo-pop” epithet reflected their frequently ironic air. All four records have been reissued by Bureau B in their original form.

What remained may be found on this collection. *Der fünfte Himmel* (“The Fifth Sky”) retrieves those pieces which were denied a place on the original LPs, although clearly cut from the same contextual cloth. Quality control was not behind their relegation to the archive, but rather their eccentric and, at times, outlandish character. *Futurum drei* is patently a bridge to Tietchens’ debut album *Nachtstücke*, recorded back in 1978, whilst *Soirée* and *Zum Tee bei Frau Hilde* were originally—in a completely different guise—designed to form the basis of the *Experimentelle Geselligkeit* album, ultimately shelved. The titles themselves are interesting: *Aus dem Tag* was initially earmarked to open up *In die Nacht* but was deemed too extravagant. *Würgstoffe* (“Wirkstoffe”) and *Niedermacher* (“Liedermacher”) are further evidence of Tietchens’ penchant for wordplay, even though the composer today admits that these rather corny jokes no longer seem quite so witty.

In addition to this promenade through the outskirts of the “Zeitzeichen phase” (or “Sky phase”), *Der fünfte Himmel* includes tracks which could have constituted a further album on Sky Records. Tietchens was working ahead of himself as his contract covered just four albums and sales were in sharp decline. Zudem hatte sich die musikalische Ausrichtung verändert. Moreover, his musical direction had shifted to accommodate a far less rugged sound and a broader range of musical tools. If these pieces share a link in to the strategies of previous works, it is a tenuous one. This would probably have been enough in itself to preclude a continuation of the series, as the material veered so far away from the Sky label line.