



RÜDIGER LORENZ

SOUTHLAND



Reissue (originally released 1984 on Syncord RL 003)
CD / 180g vinyl / download

Release date: April 3, 2015

Label: Bureau B

Katalognr.: BB194

Vertrieb: Indigo

LP EAN: 4047179992916

Bestellnr.: LP 99929-1

CD EAN: 4047179992923

Bestellnr.: CD 99929-2

Tracklisting:

- 1 Imbrassion (3:14)
- 2 New Morning (5:05)
- 3 Strange Feeling (2:56)
- 4 Francis and Friends (2:54)
- 5 Friendly Islands (2:38)
- 6 New Caledonia (5:00)
- 7 Forgotten Island (8:09)
- 8 Open Valley (7:14)
- 9 Southland (7:01)

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Key info:

- The musician: Rüdiger Lorenz was a pharmacist by trade. He produced and marketed a total of eighteen electronic music albums until his death in the year 2000. As only a few hundred copies of each were circulated, Lorenz's works remained largely unknown. Our reissue will change that!
- The music: "Southland", originally released in 1984, is stylistically between the new Düsseldorf School (Ata Tak/Pyrolator) and the old Berlin School (Tangerine Dream, Klaus Schulze).
- Available on CD (Digipak), 180g vinyl, and for download

Just when you thought you had heard everything that German electronic music of the 1980s had to offer, up pops an artist who has resolutely stayed off the radar all these years, in spite of having a discography which lists no less than 18 albums. Then again, this is not so remarkable in the case of Rüdiger Lorenz: The (hobby) musician completed an album almost every year from the early 1980s, beginning with limited runs of two to three hundred on cassette, switching to vinyl in 1983 and CD from 1990. His last album was released in 1998. Two years later Rüdiger Lorenz died—unexpectedly and far too soon.

Born in 1941, Lorenz actually got into music at a young age, although his activity at this stage was confined to playing in a beat group. But as a musically open-minded character, his record collection grew to over 10,000 discs, acquainting him early with bands like Kraftwerk, NEU!, Can and Cluster. These bands had a lasting influence on his relationship to music, guiding him towards electronica.

Electronic music carried a huge practical advantage for Rüdiger Lorenz in pursuing his craft: he was by nature more of a loner, rather than someone who fed off the group dynamic of playing in a band. Soon after purchasing his first synthesizer set-up he quit his band and installed a studio of sorts in his living room.

1981 he released his first cassette album. Initially intended merely as something to be handed out to friends, the music was surprisingly well received, encouraging Lorenz to persevere. Year in, year out. After work and at weekends. Most copies were sold in the USA. His synthesizer collection grew larger, comprising kit pieces, home-made elements and newly purchased units. One of his own creations, the »Loran Modular« synthesizer even found its way into various synthesizer lexica. Lorenz, however, was by no means a classic electronics tinkerer. His technical skills were limited to soldering, as he admitted in a radio interview for HR3, the only interview he ever gave.

"Southland" was created in 1984 and perfectly encapsulates the two facets which dominated German electronic music at that time: on the one hand, poppy, at times absurd tracks, informed by such pre-NDW (German New Wave) musicians as Pyrolator, on the other hand more plangent, spherical music echoing Tangerine Dream and the like. His son Tim, thirteen then (now a member of Andreas Dorau's live ensemble), can be heard speaking a few lines into a vocoder on "Strange Feelings". Later as a graphic design student, Tim prepared artwork for his father's releases.