



JÜRGEN KARG

ELEKTRONISCHE MYTHEN

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CD / vinyl / download

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Tracklisting:

- 1 Die versunkene Stadt
Atlantis (21:32)
- 2 Vollmond
Selene (21:06)

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Summary:

- Jürgen Karg's career in music began in the 1960s as bass player for German jazz legend Wolfgang Dauner. It was not until the 1970s that he switched his attention to electronic music, launching himself wholeheartedly into exploring the genre and building up an extensive collection of synthesizers over a five year period. His efforts culminated in the "Elektronische Mythen" LP, a mighty opus of experimental music which reveals new aspects every time it is played.

The technology of the system Karg had constructed, based on sequencers and four EMS synths, was state of the art for the period and promised endless variations. But this in itself came at a price: operating such a complex system posed a serious challenge to the artist, which Karg had to face all by himself. EMS systems like this were few and far between, not least because of the expense of putting the whole thing together. Hence there was little chance to compare notes with other music makers.

"The track 'Die versunkene Stadt' predominantly features material from my earliest attempts at digital signal processing, you can clearly hear the sheer diversity of sounds at play," Karg explains in the liner notes. *"Usable musical results were saved on tape, in some cases edited later and then mixed with the aid of several variable speed two- and four-track tape recorders and an 8-track machine."* Indeed, we find ourselves listening to a highly concentrated collage distilled from years of sonic exploration. Waves swell and stand, sample & hold cascades blubber, bells jingle and wonderfully slow layers loop in recurringly, changing their tone over a period of minutes. There is a decidedly warm and organic quality to most of the sounds, at times sounding remarkably like piano and electric bass, yet original synthetic sounds reappear over and over in the collage. On *Vollmond* Karg worked primarily with permuted sequences of ring modulated sounds.

If the music he made with Dauner was upbeat and overrevved, then *Elektronische Mythen* is anything but. Quite the opposite. Jürgen Karg's music is deeply serious, as vexing as a jamais vu, yet absolutely beautiful. *Elektronische Mythen* is an album which fits like a puzzle piece between the first and second soundtracks for *A Clockwork Orange*.