

MU 無 – Moon Dance

Album by Hubl Greiner [ex-THE BLECH]



"We boarded a spaceship and flew to the moon and the stars, far beyond the Milky Way, past Sun Ra's inspiring galaxies, into the infinite void of space. We witnessed Earth, moon, and sun shrinking—becoming tiny points that flicker in the distance. We distanced ourselves from the self-devouring humans, the performance ideologues, the consumers, the loudmouths, the decaying societies. We took our time and sought simplicity. Like shamans, we were allowed to reflect on the deep alchemy of sound and to create sounds with the ears of a newborn—without meaningful words—using vocalizations that elevate language to a realm where meaning transitions into music and the voice becomes a pure instrument of sound."



"The album *MU 無 – Moon Dance* likely has something to do with spirituality, focusing on essentials, or letting go of the constraints that constantly seize and occupy us. It is, in any case, a statement against human arrogance, greed for profit, and irresponsibility, against the destruction of our planet and the disregard for others. *Moon Dance* is a protest expressed through sound—the music does exactly what distinguishes us from unscrupulous scoundrels: it holds back, does not impose itself, teaches no lessons—it respects coexistence and otherwise keeps its mouth shut." Hubl Greiner

HUBL GREINER

Space-Electronics, Interstellar Beats, Organ, Bass, Field recording, Gongs, Compositions, Arrangements



Hubl Greiner is known for many projects in testing the validity of border-setting in music. He enjoys to look deep into the abyss and sometimes further. Best known for his work with German avant-garde rock group THE BLECH, Hubl is also a member of projects, like The Guerilla Bops, Kling Klong and FRAU.BACH. MU 無 is his solo project, which usually also features guest musicians who use his compositions and sound mixes as musical source material. He has made a name for himself beyond the borders of Germany as an unconventional, innovative and experimental musician, composer and filmmaker.

Inspired by the musical subculture beyond the mainstream, he began to play drums and bass in the early 1970s. His influences can be traced back to Bavarian folk music, jazz, rock, punk, sound art and new music.

By meeting other musicians, new horizons have opened up for Hubl. The encounters with the jazz and avant-garde musicians of the European "Rock in Opposition" scene, the musicians of the independent music network "Schneeball", the Yoruba drummers from Nigeria, North American Indians (Navajos, Northern Tutchones, Lakotas, Cherokees and O'odhams) were particularly influential. Musicians from the Asian culture, underground musicians from the former Eastern Bloc, hip hop artists from France, the unique Iva Bittová, the Sudanese Sufi Mohamed Badawi, the legendary South Indian Tavil master Paramashivam Pillai and the equally legendary shamanistic singer Stepanida Borisova from Siberia.

Hubl received international awards (12 CD awards, „Musicians Of The Year 1989“ in ČSSR, Selection Swiss Radio International 2000, WMCE 2002, Nominierung Amadeus 2006, Pasticcio-Preis etc.) and tours as a musician through Western and Eastern Europe, North and South America, Canada, Japan, Sakha/Siberia, Russia, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Cuba, Iceland and Estonia. He has worked as a musician, composer and producer on over 60 CDs and has released countless documentaries and short films as a director. He is also involved in photo art projects from time to time.

PRESSCLIPS

"...a devil-of-a-fellow and probably one of the most creative producers and musicians in his profession in Europe."

Ear Magazine, New York

"Already climbing the World Music charts in Europe, it's sure to become a classic in the experimental sub-genre. TranceSiberia breaks barriers most musicians wouldn't even consider, let alone ponder. A must have."

Folk-tales, Portland, USA

...provides the broad ass of the citizens with pepper.

Radio Spazio Uno / Naples, Italy

Competent crazies

Spiegel

exotic rhythms and a sense of twisted, tongue-in-cheek ...

Artemy Troitsky | Moscow Times

MOON DANCE – GUEST MUSICIANS

RUPERT VOLZ – Vocals, Harmonium

"Rupert and I were already traveling the world together with the band THE BLECH in the 1980s and 1990s, hurling our wild soundscapes at audiences. Journalist Anna-Bianca Krause wrote back then: '...the two are the primordial soup of the project, the founding fathers and driving forces. This is palpable on stage; one couldn't exist without the other's musical fervor.' Forty years later, we are still together, exploring the new sounds the cosmos of music has to offer."

Rupert Volz fell under the spell of music at the age of four. He sang in a boys' choir and played guitar and trumpet in his parents' inn. After training as a stonemason and stone sculptor, he began conquering stages with various rock bands. In 1985, he founded the cult band "THE BLECH" with Hubl Greiner, and together they toured the world for 12 years. The charismatic singer soon freed himself from the constraints of popular music genres, developing a distinctive style that authentically reflects his personality. For over 20 years, Rupert has also been exploring the spiritual and healing aspects of music, drawing inspiration from Tibetan and Japanese monks and Siberian shamans.

- "Rupert Volz's strengths lie in the vital embodiment of the musical concept and in spontaneous expression. His virtuoso vocal caprioles and his unmistakable overtone singing astonished even the uninterested. Rupert Volz, stands for one of the strongest musical personalities of the 80s". FAZ
- A extraordinary singer, a „Mephisto“ of tones and words; reminiscent of a young Brecht, with minstrel guitar in hand. A true master, who turned „the Scala“ down. (Frankfurter Rundschau)
- „...an extraordinary vocalist“ (Cecil Taylor)

PAUL AMROD – Grand Piano

I have known Paul since 1985, and today he is my neighbor in the house across the street. I often hear him playing the piano late into the night, driven by ideas that won't let him sleep. Over the past 40 years, we have collaborated on various occasions, but the highlight of our musical journey together, for me, is the album *MOON DANCE*. Since 2022, we have been experimenting as "Kapelle Zwei" at the intersection of music, spirituality, and science. As a teenager, Paul Amrod sang in Leonard Bernstein's choir. Later, he earned his master's degree in composition from the prestigious Juilliard School in New York. For many years, he was an active pianist in New York's jazz scene, performing with artists such as Janis Joplin, The Paul Butterfield Blues Band, NRBQ, Fred Wesley, Pee Wee Ellis, and Maceo Parker.

THOMAS MAOS – Guitar, Dobro

Thomas Maos is a highly driven sound researcher and musical boundary-crosser. Since 2015, we have been members of the artist collective FRAU.BACH, together with Silvia Pfändner, working on a variety of projects. Thomas has led the New Improviser Ensemble Tübingen, founded the rock band DEAD POETS, and initiated the international CAMP Festival. In addition to his solo concerts, he collaborates with renowned musicians such as Elliott Sharp and Saadet Türköz. A standout feature of his work is the microtonal electric guitar, custom-built for him by luthier Sigggi Braun, featuring an adjustable fingerboard. This innovative guitar was unveiled in 2024 at the Guitar Summit, promising to open up new and wondrous soundscapes.

KLAUS BRU – C-Melodie-Sax

Klaus Bru is probably the only internationally active saxophonist who plays exclusively C saxophones. He is above all an improviser who plays music with great empathy and without blinkers. Bru has worked with Marc Ribot, Sunny Murray, Steve Beresford, Jojo Mayer and many others. With the ensemble "Ka Dao Yin" he received the "Taiwan Grammy" (Golden Melody Award for Traditional Arts) in Taipei. Since 2014 he lives in London.

SANDIP CHATTERJEE – Santoor

Sandip Chatterjee is regarded as one of the outstanding talents of the new generation of Santoor players in India. His ragas are distinguished by a unique and unmistakable style. In 1986, he won first prize at the *Best Instrumentalist Award* in New Delhi, and in 1990, he was honored with the prestigious *President of India Award*.

MEHRZAD AZAMIKIA – Kamanche

Mehrzaad is a master at the Kamanche. He knows the traditional playing techniques of Persian Maqam music and is always looking for musical exchange. Mehrzaad lives in Isfahan in Iran.

HELMUT BIELER-WENDT – Violine

Helmut Bieler-Wendt is a composer, violinist, and pianist. He studied at the University of Music in Karlsruhe (violin, piano, music theory, improvisation, composition), among others with Wolfgang Rihm. Private studies led him to Johannes Fritsch (new music), Michael Ranta (Asian music), and Peter Ausländer (experimental music theater). As an improviser, he has performed with Lol Coxhill, Chico Freeman, Phil Minton, Ferdinand Richard, Fred Frith, Peter Kowald, Sainkho Namtchylak, Dietmar Diesner, Johannes Bauer, Irene Schweizer, and many others. From 1989 to 1996, he was a permanent member of THE BLECH. Helmut is a musician who must be experienced, not just heard. He is a sound seeker, a researcher who continually pushes the boundaries of what music can be...

JOHANNES FRISCH – Bowed Double Bass

Johannes Frisch has developed a unique musical language over more than three decades, working at the intersection of avant-garde jazz, post-free, and contemporary classical music. He has played in his own groups as well as in various other projects, collaborating with artists such as Irene Schweizer, Lol Coxhill, Johannes Bauer, Maggie Nicols, Le Quan Ninh, Peter Hollinger, Misha Feigin, and Harald Kimmig. His current ensembles include, among others, the Kammerflimmer Kollektief and the Figurentheater Tübingen.

FLORIAN SCHIERTZ – Tabla

Florian Schiertz is one of the most renowned European Tabla players, who has also made a name for himself in the Indian music scene. The Indian press wrote, "Groundbreaking: German Tabla player enchants the audience." Through his concerts and projects, he not only brings the sounds of India to Europe but also promotes intercultural exchange between different musical traditions and cultures.

MATTHIAS KRÜGER - Double Bass

I have known Matthias since the early 1980s. He played bass in the "Bananas Groove Band," where I also occasionally played drums. Today, Matthias is a prominent figure in the Mainz jazz scene. As a co-organizer of the Klangraum Jazz Days, a jazz and fusion festival with a family-friendly charm, he significantly shapes the local scene. He is also a co-owner of the KLANGRAUM Studio, which is particularly known for its outstanding film and theme music. As a bassist, he has performed with jazz greats such as Zbigniew Seifert, Terumasa Hino, Leszek Zadlo, and Thorsten de Winkel.

Our working method

With a few exceptions, the recordings in the studio take place without prior rehearsals. While the guest musicians hear the piece for the first time, the recording is already in progress. There are no repeats, no overdubs – only the "first take" is used. Through improvisation, the musicians bring their own musical intuition into the piece. The music emerges as a collective composition.

MU 無 stands for emptiness of the mind in Japanese philosophy. In the state of MU one tries to empty the mind of thoughts and emotions. Priest Jōshū asked a monk the following question, "Does a dog have Buddha nature?" Jōshū replied, "MU". If one considers all points of view, no possibility excludes itself.

All tracks composed, arranged, conceived and produced by Hubl Greiner. Vocal tracks by Rupert Volz. All musicians have co-composed improvisationally, thanks very much for that.

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