

Andrea Hermenau, Peter Čudek, Christian Lettner „magia“

A magical journey through many different emotional worlds.



The title of the debut album by the three consummate musicians Andrea Hermenau, Peter Čudek, and Christian Lettner couldn't have been more fitting. "Magia" is Slovak for "magical," and the music of this

international ensemble from Germany, Austria and Slovakia is undoubtedly magical—in many ways, as bassist Peter Čudek explains: *"Making and creating music has something magical about it. We have to rely on each other and immerse ourselves in the moment, which, in the best case, allows magic to happen."* Furthermore, music can *"take the listeners away from everyday life, make them dream, and generate lightness and joy."*

Andrea Hermenau and Peter Čudek have known each other for 18 years and have performed on stage together in various bands and projects over this time. *"A musical friendship has developed from that, which is the foundation for the current album,"* recalls singer and pianist Hermenau. Eventually, the idea of a joint project with self-composed pieces took shape. As the direction of the music became clear, Christian Lettner joined as the drummer—*"because we felt he was a perfect fit for the music and integrated wonderfully into the musical landscape."*

Musically, the album is full of lyrical depth, vivid imagery, diversity and contrasts. It features fast and energetic tracks like **Rhythm Changes** or **Journey** alongside light and playful compositions such as **Child's Play** or **Flying**—and fully composed, almost tone-painting works like **Unterwasserwelt** and **Im Rosengarten** alongside colorful harmonics like in **Dance**. At the same time, Brazilian Bajao grooves (**Salutation to the Sun** and **Flying**) meet jazz tradition with modern elements (**Journey**), and spherical vocals (**Eye of the Storm**) meet grounded, African-inspired grooves (**Song for Mother Earth**).

The versatile use of Hermenau's voice also amplifies the emotional impact of the album—both when it becomes an independent (melodic) instrument, as in **Dance**, **Flying**, **Im Rosengarten** and the almost

intimate-sounding **Agathe**, as well as in the lyrical ballads **Beloved** and **With You in Mind**. For Hermenau, her lyrics are small love letters to life, and she explains: *"In the tracks on the album with lyrics, the music evolved from the poetic imagery of the song lyrics."*

In general, the musical leadership seems to naturally shift between the three instruments: sometimes the melody leads, other times everything orients around the groove, and then again around the emotionality of the vocals. *"One of the red threads was the thought of how each of us musicians is as a person and how we implement that in music. In the first part of **Eye of the Storm**, I wanted to bring out the beauty and the touching quality in Andrea's voice. In the second part, on the other hand, Christian's strengths are featured,"* Čudek describes.

It becomes clear that the performers not only love diversity and contrast, but that these elements, through their work in various musical worlds, have become part of their identities as musicians—allowing what initially seems different and oppositional to merge into a cohesive and natural whole. *"We wanted to make an album that contains many different states and aspects of life—in their full spectrum."*

Andrea Hermenau, Peter Čudek, and Christian Lettner have succeeded in this. Somewhere between joy and melancholy, lightness and wildness, roughness and beauty, poetry and tone-painting, they take the listeners on a magical journey through many different emotional worlds on their album **Magia**—a journey that remains captivating and surprising throughout.

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