

26 June 2007. We rented a long trailer to transport the bass-zither (2.8 meters long) to Cologne. The weather was very bad; it was pouring rain and a strong wind made it difficult for the car to pull the trailer. The trip took too long. We arrived in Cologne with a huge delay.

During our long car-ride we talked about the mood and color of the upcoming improvisations. We recorded for three hours without a break. After that we were feeling quite empty.

It was almost time to pack up. Then the idea was mentioned, how great it would be to have one big track on the CD, without cuts. Gijsbrecht was ready to try it, Reinhart Kobialka kindly allowed more studio time, but I was full of resistance; I was hungry and wanted to get back home. Gijsbrecht managed to convince me, so we played for almost another hour.

2 days later, Gijsbrecht called:

“Listen to the last track we recorded, you won’t believe it!”.

The whole week after that, I listened to that recording. Every night, again and again. And after listening, we often had long talks on the phone about what we heard on our recording:

“Did we play that music?”

IMPROVISATION

Marco Blaauw plays on

- a quartertone double bell trumpet (tracks 1,2, 9, 10 and 11)
- a shell, brought from Madagaskar (track 3)
- slide trumpet (tracks 4, 5 and 6)
- piccolo trumpet (track 7)
- quartertone flugelhorn (track 8)
- megaphone (tracks 7 and 12)
- flexible tube (track 1 and 3)

Gijsbrecht Royé plays on a self-made bass-zither. To play on the 4 groups of bass grandpiano strings, he used different kinds of sticks; 2 bows (normally used for double bass), metal strings, nails, brushes, knives, rat-tailed files and metal scouring pads.

This CD was recorded on 26 June 2007, at TOPAZ Audio Studio Cologne, sound engineer Reinhard Kobialka.

Final mix by Marco Blaauw, Gijsbrecht Royé and Reinhard Kobialka.

Produced by Marco Blaauw, World Edition and Maria de Alvear, with the kind financial support of the ThuisKopie Endowment Funds.

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