

The Emotional Technician

by Alfred Krondraf

Annette Giesriegl explores her voice

The vocal acrobat Annette Giesriegl, who explores the entire scope of vocal possibilities, revels in confrontation, albeit in the sense of bringing together various singing styles and cultures. Unlike unthinking contrasts that often occur in other musical genres, which tend either to collide and fall into the crossover pigeonhole or, in the worst-case scenario, result in a mishmash of conflicting styles, Annette Giesriegl's work with diverse styles and techniques results in a thrilling and harmonic blend where the various voices merge together, always working in conjunction and never in opposition to each other.

From Tirol to Graz to ...

Born in Tyrol, she currently lives in Graz, where she also studied and was tutored by her current duet partner Jay Clayton and Andy Bey, amongst others. Her vocal and musical diversity is evident in her frequent collaborations with various partners and in her work with her own group, the "annett4tett". Her last and particularly impressive CD, released on the Extraplatte label, was recorded in the following formation: Annette Giesriegl vocals, Stefan Heckel keyboards, Karl Sayer bass, and Ingrid Oberkanins on percussion.

"For me, it's all about experiencing the voice in all of its nuances and facets. The voice can do far more than sing and speak and I want to use the complete range of expression in my music", as Annette Giesriegl put it in an interview. When the scope of human vocal potential has been exhausted, technology steps in.

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Loops and dubs and all that stuff..

She uses this technology onstage in her performances, but far from sitting behind her laptop and letting it hum and whirr, she only employs technological help where it makes sense and fits in to the musical event. She thus constantly expands her repertoire and when the infinite repetition of sung and aspirated, breathy phrases begins, all of them heavily laden with profound emotion ("of course they are feelings and momentary emotional states but all of these emotions require the right vocal technique in order to be expressed") - and when she starts to improvise on top of these looped phrases, the lady takes us on a journey through vocal words spread across all imaginable cultures.

In a duo concert together with her teacher Jay Clayton in Vienna she went on an imagined tour through the all-time highlights of the improvised vocal canon.

A few days later, she and Frank Schmuck took the audience at the artmark gallery in Vienna by the hand and guided them across various global vocal cultural traditions. The journey led from the Inuit to the overtone singing of the Asian steppe and on to Japan.

When the journey is its own reward

Even if Annette Giesriegl is based in Graz and even if she does sometimes retreat back to the echoing silence of her native Tyrolean mountains for musical inspiration, she is nonetheless a traveller in the truest sense of the word. She commutes between Moscow, where she works with Russian female vocalists, and Israel, where she is involved in a workshop, and London, where she is deeply rooted in the live impro scene - and she discovers and gleans new vocal impressions from all her journeys, all of which contribute to her oeuvre as a whole. These are always journeys towards new possibilities, and she still finds time for extensive work with so-called "native" artists.

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There are scores of projects on her agenda that are just waiting to happen.

CD

Annette Giesriegl Hear I Am, Sales & Distribution: Extraplatte

Websites

www.giesriegl.net

www.artmark.at