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„Life – a present“:

My thoughts to my compositions of my CD1

(updated as per May 2015)

Russian Trilogy

Russian music and its multilateral emotionality and expressiveness have touched my heart and fascinated me, already as a child and again and again also later on.

With this trilogy I wanted to set a monument to this kind of music. I dedicated this composition to two persons, who played an important role in my life:

My former Russian piano teacher Harry Schüle and
my former Russian professor Olga Rissin-Morenova

Russian Folklore:

It is like a colorful bunch of flowers of emotions (melancholy, cockiness, passion, temperament...) and of singing, dancing – expressed and drafted by the piano.

Ride of the Cossacks across the Taiga:

Cossacks = free horse riders

On the one hand the Cossacks are known to be wild and martial – on the other they stand for tradition and conviction.

In the first and third part of this piece the piano plays the wild, rough and daredevil Cossack riders, the second part shows the soul of the Taiga, its loneliness, beauty and wideness (partly with imitation of balalaika).

People on Wolga beach:

With double meaning:

- 1) The Wolga, longest river in Europe – from its source, down the river to its access to the Caspian Sea, in multiple interchange with the musical motive symbolizing the human being.
- 2) Our “flow of life”: from the birth across the course of life to the transition to another world, where we have come from – a recurrent cycle: comes and fades away.

Cycle: “My way back to myself”

Anxiety, missing self-confidence, dependencies and others can make us to go a certain way that is harmful to us or rather on which we are hurt.

Fire and ice

These harmful and extreme situations of life can bring us in such difficulties that we (fortunately 😊) come to a point, where we question this previous life and we decide – despite being anxious – to choose and to go another, new way. But where? To find out this, we need the willingness to learn as a basic prerequisite: to respect ourselves, to trust ourselves, to take over responsibility for our own lives...

Indefinite desire

An indefinite desire carries us and brings us forward to search ourselves and to find our real determination and passion. And when this desire is strong enough, then it can help us: to overcome, step after step, self-doubt and the fear to fail and to release the load of old habits that hinder and harm us in order to come to much better decisions for us and therefore for our life, and many other things.

Ups and downs

This decision process hardly goes in a straight line:

On the one hand, we make progress (“ups”/feeling of success), on the other we do have to face set-backs from time to time, we hold ourselves or we allow ourselves to be held back. Hence, it sometimes seems that the “downs” predominate.

Turnaround

We call it “turnaround” when, for example, we get the impression that the “ups” start to predominate 😊.

Expressing it in musical language: with the change from minor to major.

Melody of life

We often understand our life only in retrospect, recognize thereby arising patterns, the common thread.

Every life is unique, has therefore its own, individual pattern. And sometimes we recognize – gratefully and with joy – that something bad has turned into good.

Our heart beats the time for it (therefore I play two instruments within this piece of music: the piano and a percussion instrument).

On course

We can live our life only facing forward, that's why it makes sense to focus on the present and on the future rather than on the past (I know, this is not always easy).

Even if we are "on course", our life will not always go straight-lined, because our life consists of permanent learning and growing – but it is worth doing: The way to ourself. Not only because we get to know ourselves better and grow internally, but through this process we develop more and more relationships and circumstances that are good to us and are good to them.

Cycle "Musical biography" (extract from it)

Preamble

Like there is a written preamble in the biography of a book, there is a musician preamble in my musical biography tuning into the subject and giving a short overview.

When an angel dies

My dog Bobby was a loyal and best friend to me, also in difficult times. When he was about to die, the musical idea of this song came to my mind – **I devoted it to Bobby.**

It is also a commemoration to all the wonderful people, animals, hopes and dreams, to whom we had already said goodbye in our world.

Desire and hope

The piece tells about desire and pain with view to the lost, but also about consolation and hope and the beginning of inner healing.

Comeback

We realize that we are stronger than we thought to be – so we stand up again and dare a *comeback*: We look forward and recognize with a certain distance, from a different angle of view that some hope, some of a dream – which we had already buried internally – is in reality not "dead" yet, but which can - by all means - be realized and be lived 😊 .

Life – a present

Being faced with the finiteness of life, we feel it more than ever as a valuable, temporary present.

Pleasure

Optimism and pleasure of life return.

Song of the earth

We are in the role of the observer:

It approaches from the darkness of the universe, enormously, majestically, big and unbelievably beautiful:

Our blue planet the earth.

It turns around its own axis tremendously, but also with playful easiness to our admiration, in order to open then its inside full of depth, tragedy and passion and to let us take part of it.

Bit by bit it closes again, presents itself in her whole beauty, charm and power and then disappears with a last goodbye to her further journey through infinity.

(also on my 3rd CD: Special musical trip around the world)

Thank you

Devoted to: a very special and wonderful person, who was unbelievably good to me in very difficult times – I will never forget him!

I also say “**thank you**” to a godly power, to whom I owe all my musical ideas and also the ability to transcribe them.

I also say “**thank you**” to all the people who had supported me, who were good to me and who took care of myself on part of my life.

My **thanks** also goes to my audience: for your coming, your wonderful feedbacks, the wonderful hours together... etc., etc. !!!!! **Thank you !!!!!**

(Author: Birgit Stefanie Meyle, May 2015.

You will find the appropriate CD1 and some video extracts on my homepage:

www.birgit-stefanie-meyle.de)