**Ralf Weihrauch**

**Alles tot im Bauernhimmel**

Blue Bowl (Blue 35)

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“I’ve never heard anything like that before.” – Ralf Weihrauch’s new CD has met with the same reaction in all test-listeners.

For his new album “Alles tot im Bauernhimmel” Ralf Weihrauch has a totally new approach to German folk songs. The arrangements of all 13 tracks were developed on computer. Except for accordion, whistle and voice, Ralf uses synthesizers, loops and sampled instruments. This album is far away from a traditional folk album – from “Alles tot im Bauernhimmel” a new genre emerges:

**Sci Folk.**

After a long period in the Celtic field, here Ralf dedicates himself to German folk songs. He has ploughed through collections such as “Deutscher Liederhort” by Erk-Böhme and Luis Pinck`s “Verklingende Weisen” to look for songs that have not been sung in the German Folk-Revival. Nonetheless, he has stayed true to himself by preferring the enthralling stories and obscure language, similar to the material visited on his CDs in English.

The ballads, most of them several hundred years old, receive a new guise. For five of the tracks, Ralf dug out old Reggae-Riddims. The Bam-Bam-Riddim fits the song “Eitle Dinge”, as if it was made for it. Reggae-Fans will recognize the Heavenless-Riddim in “Die treue Schwester”, as well as the “Chase Vampire” in the Tupfpolka. The dark mood of “Der grausame Bruder” and “Es war einmal ein Mädchen“ are enhanced by the Bug-Riddim and the Tempo-Riddim.  
Modern production techniques enabled the legendary German Folk band Liederjan to sing the harmonies Ralf created for them, before the song mutates with a mixture of EDM, Major Lazer and medieval bagpipes, into a modern dancefloor track. Friends of medieval songs will also enjoy “Der grimmig Tod”.

“Die Schlacht bei Leipzig” might sound folky, but here as well all sounds such Uillean-Pipes, whistles and violins are sampled instruments. The same goes for all brass instruments on “Es soll sich der Mensch nicht mit der Liebe abgeben”, where the basis is provided by a sample of the British Folk band “Brass Monkey”.

“Mein Sohn David” is the German version of the old Scottish Ballad “My Son David”, and the pentatonic tune leads to a minimalistic Asian-electro arrangement.  
This slow, melancholic, sad piece sounds like new, thanks to the electronic treatment. The funky guitar intro of “Der Tod des Schätzchen, the half-speed Dub-Step drum track on “Der tote Freier and the deep bass on “Zum Tode betrübt” also breathe new life into old lyrics.

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