

„Operasinger´s Family: The First Christmas Album”

- ⇒ The world´s first music album: voice of opera & barrel-organ.
- ⇒ The first family Christmas album with operasinger Sybille Witkowski.

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Introduction

First time in history of music, no, more exact: First time in history of the world the voice of a barrel-organ joins together with the voice of opera... No, different: Forgone to the available music album is a changeful story full of joy, beauty and enthusiasm, of inventive genius and craftsmanship, of suffering, poverty and loss, of patriotism, death and patriotism, of dishonesty and deceit, of moments of happiness and dances on the street*, of hope, desire and mercy.

The story began over 1000 years ago in Persia, perhaps 1500 years ago before at Qufu in the east of China. There was invented the mechanism of organs, the basis of the barrel-organ. It proved its staying power at every place each in their own way in Italy, Germany, France, British Isles and elsewhere. Even 200 years ago the street organ has had an importance of today´s TV, broadcasting, newspaper, streaming media and internet as a whole (following Peter G. Schuhknecht).

But despite of all: „It stayed an instrument of beggars” (Helmut Zeraschi). Streets, public squares, backyards and garden allotments were its home, at wind and weather. Even though Haydn and Vivaldi included the hurdy-gurdy, Mozart and Beethoven the musicbox and Verdi the barrel-organ in their composition´s: Not everybody liked who “rolled in the [musical] cloaca of Verdi” (August Wilhelm Ambros).

Perhaps it required something of the open-mindedness and cosmopolitanism of Georg Christoph Lichtenberg who reported in his “letters from England” how he has followed an organ grinder and has felt an “indescribable devoutly shiver” listening to him playing Bach´s chorale “In allen meinen Taten (In All That I Do)”.

An instrument of a lump. Whatever maybe thought, perhaps also with Karl Kraus: “What´s the Ninth Symphony next to a popular song played by a street organ and memory!”

Thereby back to the beginning.

Main part

First time in history of music, no, more exact: First time in history of the world the voice of a barrel-organ joins together with the voice of opera singing on a full-length music album and this in remembrance of Christmas and the time until Christmas. On this family album Sybille Witkowski not only sings as an operasinger (although this site of her stays unmistakable), but also as a mummy, for example „Jingle Bells“ as a duet with her eight years old daughter. Sometimes the grand singer entrusts the stage to the small singer alone, for example for the children-classic „Morgen kommt der Weihnachtsmann (Tomorrow Santa Claus Is Coming)“ or for presenting the poem „Weihnachten (Christmas)“. By the way at the street organ: husband and daddy Witkowski.

Conclusion

A festive family jam session, played spontaneously, recorded spontaneously, most of it “one take only”, from time to time breastfeeding of the youngest Witkowski, a real family Christmas album, realized with the support by *am – artists and media* and GVL - Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten.

The artists

Klara-Luise Witkowski is nine years old, loves bulldog Berta Witkowski in particular and her twelve chicken (they all have names, too, but naming every single one would actually go too far). She just left elementary school, although never been there (because auf Corona pandemic and homeschooling).

On **Sybille Witkowski**'s way becoming a dramatic soprano brilliant high, extraordinarily precise fluentness and dramatic sound basis have been united.

This way led her from lyric soprano through soprano lirico spinto and dramatic coloratura soprano to dramatic soprano and she was accompanied on it, for example by Rosemarie Hagemann, Siegfried Jerusalem, Elizabeth Whitehouse, Deborah Polaski and still Ingrid Haubold.

While still a member of the International Opera Studio of Nuremberg State Theatre, the soprano Sybille Witkowski made her debut as the title figure in “Die Csárdásfürstin” (The Gypsy Princess). She belonged to the ensemble of soloists during the seasons that followed and sang, among other roles, the Countess in “Le Nozze de Figaro” (The Marriage of Figaro), Rosalinde in “Die Fledermaus”, the first lady in “Die Zauberflöte” (The Magic Flute) and Lisa in “Das Land des Lächelns” (The Land of Smiles).

In between she stepped in for other singers, has given guest performances and concerts, for example with the Staatskapelle Weimar und Staatsphilharmonie Nuremberg. This was followed by the time of family leave and healthy change of her voice type.

Sybille Witkowski's current repertoire includes for example Leonore, Senta, The Empress (die Kaiserin), Turandot, Brünnhilde and Isolde - to experience and to hear during the concert series and recitals 2020/21: "from Richard to Richard" including scenes, arias and recitals of Richard Strauss and Richard Wagner.

Currently Sybille Witkowski sets the tone on the opera project "Ancient Beauty And Future's Slit".

In 2021 "Operasinger's Family: The First Christmas Album" was released in streaming media (Apple Music, Tidal, Spotify, Deezer and others) and on CD. In 2022 Sybille Witkowski's family music album will be re-released and be followed by her second Christmas album "Welcome To The Nutcracker's World".

Please visit sybille-witkowski.com and (recurrently) social media for more information about the operasinger (and her family).



* Dances on the street of post-war Berlin.