

BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Emmer

EST. 1958

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is a European composer/artist from Amsterdam, Holland, who spent his 60's youth partially in India learning how to play a local windinstrument in an ashram, then he moved to the Caribbean to get taught voodoo percussion as a boy. Back in Amsterdam in the 70's he got involved in various bands such as an experimental free jazz group, a symphonic rockgroup and an avantgarde new wave electro-noise group called , who at the time became a Factory signed band in the UK alongside and enjoyed considerable cultstatus ever since touring together with throughout Europe. His musical idealism made him create and produce a solo mini-album in the early 80's called (Wea records int.) where he was joined by several guestartists from the UK & USA such as the late

. The album was one of the first intentional European Soundtracks Without a Film and produced by . After having briefly joined several UK bands such as and , he completed a course called Scoring For Television in London and went home and got involved in mediamusic for most of the 90's, a.o. becoming the first inhouse-composer for both the main public and commercial tv-broadcasters in the Netherlands and composed for several European tv-documentaries, short films, art-installations and feature films and won several awards for artistic excellence such as the prestigious . Successful yet hardened and professionally seasoned by these involvements, around 2006 he felt a sudden urge to liberate himself temporarily from this 'musical warzone' and he decided to return to his musical idealism of the early years and found what he was searching for: inspiration through catharsis and created 17 compositions based on literary text-fragments for a cd called (Allegro USA, Challenge Records Europe). The music follows no rules out-of-the-book yet refers to very different musical genres, styles and even cliché's as experienced and learned by Emmer in both his idealistic and commercial musical periods. Or, as his producer puts it:

' is one of those composers/artists who knows the musical rules best and therefore also how to break them.' The linernotes for this album were written by (Burt Bacharach biographer). The album is a cd where classic and modern spoken word is performed by famous writers (), singers () and actors (), but then reinterpreted in a fresh way to compose new and original music to each vocal performance. The album is mixed and produced in NYC by in the legendary Looking Glass Studios owned by and features several musical performers such as singer , jazzmusician , legendary pianist () and vocal performers are a.o. and with a special and exclusive guestappearance by (according to Pitchfork " This piece from Dutch avant-garde composer Stephen Emmer's grand album Recitement is like The Darjeeling Limited with Lou Reed's signature croon as a narration").

Early 2009 Emmer arranged all songs for the new UK album produced by and is currently writing identity music for Comedy Central tvchannels in Central Europe, new songs for the successor to his artistically acclaimed album Recitement and will start a collaboration with international top mediacomposer **David Lowe** from the UK. (BBC News&Worldservice). At present also produces and hosts a weekly radioshow called O.S.T. (Original Sound Track) about songs or themes from and inspired by films and television on KX Radio.

