1453. Midnight in DecemberBackgrounds Of Svetozar Radic

James Last (1929-2015) was a German bandleader, composer, arranger and music producer. With his 40piece orchestra, he shaped the "Happy Sound", which was part of the Easy Listening style, with which he had great success for two decades from 1965. Until the mid-1950s, however, he still traded under his real name HANS LAST and played jazz and dance music in various formations as bassist. Then he was asked by Radio Bremen to found a string orchestra - the result was "Hans Last Orchester" based on the model of MANTOVANI. The orchestra already worked with a tape recorder, with which each voice was recorded four times individually with all violins. Then the orchestra played to the recordings so that the few strings, namely eight violins, two violas and two cellos, sounded many times more impressive. "Midnight in December. For example, in the title I am currently working on, "Midnight in December", from 1966, very low strings can be heard:



It took me a long time to find out how the good James Last got his strings so "thick" - and there you can see his trick, or rather the solution: he simply doubled the strings "downwards" (this position does not exist with violins) - the studio-toband technique made it possible even then - today it is possible for everyone with digital MIDI technology. The second special feature is the main sound of the accompaniment: it comes from the "tremolo strings" GM-Sound 45. The guitar plays only the bass part octave higher with the mute sound (muted). And then I used the sound "Bells+Choir", whereby as Bells the sound no.89 "Fantasy" was taken and as choir the two GM-Sounds 53 (Aha) and 54 (Duh) alternately in the low and high register. ""Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)



The title "Midnight in Becember" can be found on countless James Last records, starting with the 1966 vinyl record of the same name as a medley part with the following content:

A1 Ring Little Bell/Let's Be Gay And Merry / A2 The Snow Falls Softly/The Wind Blows In The Mountain / A3 Children, Tomorrow Is The Day/Merry Christmas Everywhere / A4 The Christmas Tree Is Alight With Candles/A Rose Has Come To Bloom / A5 Come Ye Children/The Christmas Tree Is The Finest Tree/Ah! Ah! Ah! / B1 White Christmas/Midnight In December/Jingle Bells / B2 Come Ye Shepherds/Oh Christmas Tree/Christmas Night / B3 Tomorrow Brings Santa/Miracle Upon Miracle/When The Snow Falls From Heaven / B4 The Bells Never Sound Sweeter/In Dulci Jubilo/Joseph Dear, Joseph Mine / B5 Sleigh Ride In The Winter/Silent Night, Holy Night

In the year 1966 the very successful Christmas series of JAMES LAST with the title "Christmas Dancing" was released. This concept was maintained until his death in 2015.







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Weihnachts-Musik von JAMES LAST (1929-2015) Bearb.: Svetozar Radic



Programmieranweisung

Hier ensteht ein interessanter "Very"-Slow-Beat mit Tempo 55 in einer sehr tiefen Strings-Lage. Im Main 1 erklingen nur die TREMOLO-STRINGS - kein Chor-Pad, wie sonst bei JL üblich. Diesmal spielen (singen) die zwei Chor-Sounds (Duh+Ah) immer den zweiten Vers. als Meldoie-Unterstützung. Das Schlagzeug spielt einen vollwertigen Achtel-Beat mit HiHatsticked und Snare-Nachschlag. Besondere Rolle in diesem Style spielen aber die Glocken: über eine lange Distanz von einem halben Takt spielen die Glocken chromatisch die 32igstel-Phrase hoch, wobei immer die Akkord-Quinte als Anfang dient und bis zur übernächsten Grundton-Oktave verlaufen, jeweils auch mit einem starken Sustain-Effekt.