

1500. Clair de Lune

Backgrounds Of S. Radic



James Last plays his atmospheric arrangement of Claude Debussy's *Clair de Lune*. The track was recorded for the 1966 album *Classics Up To Date*, but was one of two tracks omitted from the finished album. The song features Jochen Ment on bandoneon, Wolfgang Schlueter and Günter Platzek on vibraphones, and an excellent choral performance by the Bergedorf Chamber Choir, which Last used on many of his classical and folk music recordings.



Why wasn't this recording then transferred to the intended disc? My personal assumption is the following: In 1966, just one year after the band was founded, James Last was well on the way to establishing his "Happy Sound" and the first Golden LP was in the making. About his "classical" views At that



time, people in classical music circles were probably not so enthusiastic, because he changed the classical works at will and provided them with all sorts of new attributes, which the classical purists did not like so much. 20 years later that would no longer have been possible, because by then he had already made more than 100 golden LPs - and from then on he alone decided what went on his LP and what not!

What did he change so colossally in "Clair de Lune"? Oh yes, quite a bit, and it's really colossal: he changed the 9/8 rhythm of the original to 4/4 so he could just use his happy pattern in the accompaniment. As a result, the lead in the melody shifted "drastically" in some cases! Then he had the idea of using a BANDONEON as a solo instrument and occupying all the secondary voices with two VIBRAPHONES - and of course the massive use of the "textless Aah-CHOIR" - at that time the well-known "Bergedorfer Kammerchor" - as a vanguard for his own choir - and of course the thongs - which he never did without until the end of his career! But the "Clair de Lune" themes have remained despite all the changes and will always delight us anew! My thanks to JAMES LAST.



Vibraphones: Wolfgang Schlüter & Günter Platzek



Bergedorfer Kammerchor

Latin-8-Beat, T=120

Main 1

Advanced

Main 2

Harfe

Strings

Guitar

Bass

Strings

E-Bass

Tambourin

Drums

BD

SD

Programming instruction

A really genuine "title-related" style. Hardly usable for other music. The Main1 part is reserved for the long intro: only the sustained strings in all areas - as a pad and as a strings bass! In Main2, on the other hand, it looks more like a standard 8-beat, but here I converted the quarter tambourine from Main1 into an eighth tambourine, so that the eighth note movement is somewhat forced. The guitar and strings adopt an identical backing phrase, with the bass phrase providing rhythmic counterpoint. The harp is actually the surprise of the day: it only sounds in the ending phrase and should therefore be entered in Advanced mode! Have fun!