



Taunus - Harriet

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Distributed by A-Musik (World), Plop (JP), Darla (US)

Tracklist:

1.Dots & Lines (2:39) 2.Tramin (4:53) 3.Concepts & Beliefs (3:26) 4.Luek (2:21) 5.Passers' Piece (4:09) 6.Petrella (4:56) 7.Hintern (3:46) 8.Harriet (6:57)

TOTAL: 33:32

Taunus was formed by the Berliner steel string guitarists Jan Thoben and Jochen Briesen in early 2001. They were joined by several guests playing percussion, banjo, harmonium and vibraphone at live concerts. Since their first longplayer „Malinche“ (Schinderwies Productions, 2005) Taunus' line-up keeps changing a bit and is heading towards a more flexible ensemble conception. For the new album „Harriet“ (Ahornfelder, 2007) Derek Shirley, Michael Thieke, Wilm Thoben and F.S. Blumm were invited to play along at the recording sessions. Taunus play acoustic (mostly) instrumental music – you can find elements ranging from folk, fingerpicked minimal structures to improvised and more open forms in their music.

The first record „Malinche“ by Taunus was mostly focused on minimal, interlocking folky guitar-patterns. „**Harriet**“ on the other hand features more contrasting elements: Strictly composed passages, which are rigid and static in character, are combined with free, fluid and improvised parts. Dissonances enter a framework of open tuned folk-harmonics. And on top of the warm and immediate sounds of acoustic instruments an artificial voice generator talks about the inconstancy of concepts and theory. By bridging and sometimes even blurring these contrasts and differences, Taunus expand their way of musical expression. „Harriet“ successfully explores new ways of composing interesting, reflective and charming music based on fingerpicked guitars. The album is named after Darwin's lady freshwater turtle „Harriet“, which died in 2006 at the age of 175 years. She was mistakenly thought to be a male exemplar of her species for most of her life.

Jan Thoben [guitars, percussion, vibraphone, vocals]. As a member of *Kinn* (with F.S. Blumm & Marcel Türkowsky) Jan released records on Audio Dregs and Sinnbus. Together with his brother Wilm and Jan Ferdinand he formed the instrumental rockband *Gaston* (Beau Rivage) in 2001. Moreover, he contributed music to diverse experimental-films and theater pieces. - <http://www.gaston-musik.de/>

Jochen Briesen [guitars, piano, banjo, vocals]. Besides also being a member of *Gaston*, Jochen released experimental-electronic music with his solo-project *Semuin* on labels such as Audio Dregs, Happy Zloty and Power Shovel Audio. Currently he is recording a *Semuin* album for Ahornfelder. – <http://www.semuin.de/>

Wilm Thoben [vibraphone]. Wilm – Jan's brother – is a founding member of *Gaston*. As a staff member of the Electronic Studio Berlin (Technical University), he focuses on the technical aspects of electronic sound processing and composition. He regularly assists composers of electroacoustic music and is involved in several music and art projects.

Michael Thieke [clarinet]. Michael lives in Berlin and since 2000 also part time in Rome. His musical interests oscillate between song and abstract, free jazz, composition and silent noises. In the course of the years Michael collaborated and released records with a vast variety of musicians, participated in radio productions and worked with contemporary composers and choreographers. He toured all over Europe and was invited to well known music festivals such as Donaueschinger Musiktage and Jazz a Mulhouse. – <http://www.michael-thieke.de/>

Derek Shirley [double-bass]. Derek was born in Ottawa/Canada and extensively toured North-America with diverse bands. In 2001 he moved to Berlin and since then he participates in numerous projects between improvised music, noise-rock, and jazz. With Michael Thieke he is part of the improv trio *Hotelgäste*.

F.S. Blumm [guitar]. Frank Schültke Blumm lives in Berlin and released records with his solo-project and diverse collaborations on labels like Morr Music, Staubgold, Audio Dregs, Tomlab and Ahornfelder. He toured North-America and Europe and together with his partner Christian Berner he is the producer of award winning radio plays. – <http://fsblumm.free.fr/>

For the jacket design Taunus collaborated with the texanian photographer William Hundley ([http://www.williamhundley.com./](http://www.williamhundley.com/)) – on the photos you can see jumping humans covered in cloth.