

BIO Volker Meitz

++ SHORT VERSION ++

Berlin based Volker Meitz is a versatile keyboard player and producer, operating in genres ranging from Jazz to Pop to Electronica. He also is a sideman and producer for other artists.

Volker played with jazz acts like *Eric Schaefer*, *Kai Brückner*, *Chuck Loeb*, *Taiko Saito*, singers *Chima*, *Lisa Bassenge*, *Clara Hill*, *Astrid North*, Soul greats like *The Temptations* or *Ann Sexton* and Club acts like *Jazzanova* or *Analogue Freestyle* (one of the first German Drum'n'Bass live bands), performing around Europe and from New York to Beijing and Johannesburg.

As a session keyboarder, producer and remixer, Volker Meitz has worldwide releases to his credit; to name but a few, he has worked for *4 Hero (UK)*, *Chari Chari (Japan)*, *Dixon*, *Femi Kuti*, *P.Diddy*, *Popol Vuh*, *Jazz Indeed & Michael Schiefel*, producers *Patrick Majer* and *The Krauts*, as well as soundtrack remix for the Brazilian movie „*City Of God*“.

++ LONG VERSION ++

Born near Hamburg in 1974, Volker Meitz received classical piano lessons since age seven. As a teenager, he took on Jazz piano training, had his first appearances with a Synthie-Pop duo and played around North Germany with the Jazzfunk-Band *Bugging Operation*. His first steps as a composer and producer he made with what we call „Chiptunes“ today: Under the nickname *PRI/Oxyron*, he released ca. 100 pieces of music in the 8-Bit computer scene of platform of that iconic little homecomputer called **Commodore C64**.

Having moved to Berlin in 1995, Volker got into the local Jazz and Electronic music scene, before long found himself playing with *Analogue Freestyle* (one of the first German Drum'n'Bass live bands) and met *Jazzanova*, who were looking for artists for their new label **Sonarkollektiv**; they released Volker's first professionally produced song ever on a compilation right away.

+ OWN PROJECTS +

Volker's solo project **Meitz** debuted with the *Africa EP* which became a club hit of the NuJazz scene, followed up by further releases and numerous remix requests for other artists – such as **Chari Chari** (Japan), **Phonique**, **Peace Orchestra**, 70ies-re-releases of "Kraut-Jazzers" **Missus Beastley** and Czech Jazz combo

Mahagon, or for the soundtrack of the Brazilian movie **City Of God**.

In 2001 Volker took his 8-piece band on the road around Germany for the first time. Meitz' first longplayer „Vertikal“ appeared on the Frankfurt based **Infracom** label in 2003, including collaborations with vocalists **Esther Cowens** (Jan Delay, Soulounge), **Vido Jelashe** (Noise Shaper, Tiger Hifi), **Twana Rhodes**, **Daniel Mattar** plus musicians of **Seed**, **Nylon**, **Tuomi**, **Lisa Bassenge** and **Berlin Bigband**.

In 2007, Volker Meitz launched **Sonar Kollektiv Orchester**, the *all star band* of the correspondent label. Next to arranging and producing the complete debut album in his humble studio, he also is their musical director on stage. In 2009, he recorded the Orchester for British NuJazz / Drum'N'Bass pioneers **4 Hero**.

Since 2011, Volker has been playing regular gigs in Berlin with **Projekt Rhinow** – a trio together with *Anders Grop* (bass) and *Rainer Winch* (drums). For each concert, they recruit different guest musicians from Classical to Free Jazz, with the program varying accordingly, but always somewhere in the realm of Jazz. They have so far been joined by the likes of **Lisa Bassenge**, **Kai Brückner**, **Taiko Saito**, **Kalle Kalima**, **Silke Eberhard** and **Benny Lackner**.

+ SIDEMAN / PRODUCER +

Not least because of his sonic feel and creativity, Volker Meitz has been hired by artists from Jazz to Pop to Electronica. He played with singers like **Clara Hill, Chima, Astrid North, Pat Appleton (Dephazz), Della Miles**, jazzers like **Ensemble Du Verre, Christoph Titz** or **Groove Galaxi** and club acts such as **Jazzanova** or **Didges Brew**. Performing with backing bands **Baltic Soul Orchestra** and **Heavy Mellow Quartet**, he has been backing up legendary soul acts including **The Temptations, Alexander O'Neal, Gloria Scott** and **Ann Sexton** as well as US Jazzers **Rick Braun, Richard Elliot** and **Chuck Loeb**.

In the studio, he worked with the likes of **Georg Levin, Jazz Indeed & Michael Schiefel, Eric Schaefer**, House-DJ **Dixon, Alex Barck, Moabit** (Hip Hop), **Dirk Berger & Vincent von Schlippenbach** of producers **The Krauts** fame; his playing can be heard on remixes for **P.Diddy, Femi Kuti, Popol Vuh, Fauna Flash**,

Alessandro Alessandroni and others.

Volker wrote the score for the **musical play „Verona Place“**, collaborating with New York based Author **Nathan Youngerberg**; he was part of the first performance in New York City.

+ TECHNICAL +

Besides music itself, Volker has always been fascinated by the technical aspect of sound synthesis and music production, which resulted in some respective studies, and eventually in a master's degree of Electro-Acoustical Engineering and Audio Communication from **Berlin Technical University**. He passes on his knowledge as a freelance teacher for audio engineering and sound design.

Last but not least, Volker has an own little production facility named **Nordkreuz Studio** where he produces his own stuff as well as records and mixes music for other artists.

DISCOGRAPHY (excerpt)

as keyboarder

ERIC SCHAEFER, *Bliss*, Album (ACT 2016)
ERIC SCHAEFER, *Who's Afraid Of Richard W.?* Album (ACT 2013)
POPOL VUH, *Haram Dei Haram Dei (Alex Barck Remix)*, „Revisited & Remixed“ Album (SPV 2011)
P.DIDDY, *Coming Home (Krauts Remix)* (Universal 2011)
ANN SEXTON, *Live At Baltic Soul Weekender* (Unique 2009)
CLARA HILL'S FOLKWAVES, *Be Like That & Interlude*, auf "Sideways" (Sonarkollektiv 2007)
MOABEAT, *Pheromone*, auf "Dringlichkeit besteht immer" (Newnoise/Labels/Virgin 2004)
FEMI KUTI, *Beng Beng Beng (Dixons AVDC Mix)*, on "Shoki Remixed" CD/LP (Barclay 2000)

as producer

MEITZ, *Reicht*, on „20+ Years“ Compilation (Infracom! 2014)
4 HERO, *Universal Love*, on „Extensions“ Album (Raw Canvas 2009)
SONAR KOLLEKTIV ORCHESTER, "Guaranteed Niceness" Album (Sonarkollektiv 2008)
PHONIQUE, *Trouble and Work It Out*, on "Good Idea" DoCD (Dessous 2007)
MEITZ, *Mandelbrot*, on "Home Cooking" (v.A.), (Sonarkollektiv 2006)
JAZZ INDEED, "Blaue Augen" CD (ACT 2005)
MEITZ, *Vertikal*, CD/LP (Infracom 2003)
MEITZ, *Africa EP, 12"* (Sonarkollektiv 1999)

as remixer

ENSEMBLE DU VERRE, *Ra*, on "Sanctuary For Animals Remixed" Album (Batterie 2008)
CITY OF GOD REMIXED, *Morte do Zé Pequeno*, CD/LP (Crippled Dick Hot Wax 2003)
PHONIQUE, *Fake It, 12"* (Dessous Rec. 2003)
PEACE ORCHESTRA, *Marrakesch*, on "Reset" CD/LP (G-Stone 2002)
CHARI CHARI, *Life In Flow Motion*, on "Flow Dub remix album" (Ultima Rec. 2002)
DANIEL PAUL, *Outa Space, 12"* (Sonarkollektiv 2001)