

HEART BEAT & SOUL



MIU Leaf

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www.miu-music.de
www.heartbeatandsoul.com

Line-Up: Miu (voc), Daniel Otte (bass), Nando Schäfer (Drums), Arne Vogeler (git), Joscha Farries (keys)

Tracklisting: 1. Dancing in a minefield 2. Next big thing, 3. Bags with homesickness, 4. Better left unsaid, 5. Files of myself, 6. Geneva, 7. Not another love song, 8. Perfect time to go, 9. Ohana, 10. Running out of heroes

ISRCs: 1. Dancing in a Minefield (DECY91700625), 2. Next Big Thing (DECY91700626), ff.

MIU – LEAF

A scoop of straciatella and a scoop of chocolate mint ice cream. It is pouring with rain and a hundred meters further the Baltic Sea washes against the Timmendorfer Strand. Miu seems radiant, not just because she is enjoying wholeheartedly the rather delicious ice cream – it seems to be her general state of mind. Partly perhaps, because in this business called „Pop“ she often succeeds, where others don't even try: getting her own way and doing „her thing“, not at all costs, but determined, when she feels and decides it is worth it.

A short sigh and a roll of her pretty eyes. All too often she has been told that it would be to her advantage and about time that she started singing in German – like most of her „sensible“ contemporaries. „German to me sounds a little like an old typewriter“, Miu remarks with a mockish twinkle. „German may work for singer/songwriters, but not for me. To my mind the kind of music, I play“, which one, if one had to, may locate somewhere between Soul and Pop with a grain of Jazz, „is not suited for German. I really don't feel like running after some presumed Zeitgeist, nor do I want to raise any false expectations – especially not when I feel it might be harmful to the chemistry in my band.“

For a good four years now the nucleus of Miu's band, based in her home town Hamburg, consists of Daniel Otte (Bass), Nando Schäfer (Drums), Arne Vogeler (Guitar) and Joscha Farries (Keyboards) and whenever the size of the venue allows or demands it, they are complemented by various other musicians – which tends to be the case more and more often in recent times. While recording her latest album „Leaf“ up to twelve musicians were playing on a single track – but not always. „The concepts of the songs are mostly mine, often in collaboration with Arne“, Miu explains. „Although one of the songs was complete teamwork, conceived and arranged in our practice room. If something is working well in our five-piece-lineup, with bass, drums, guitar, keyboards and myself, we ask ourselves, if something else should be added. It has to make sense, it's never about the biggest possible instrumentation.



When working on `Perfect Time to go`, for example, we felt the song was so delicate, that apart from the vocals and the keys, to add just a few strings would be enough, lending it a kind of „Moon River“-feeling, which suits it perfectly.“ The recording sessions at Studio Nord Bremen were produced by Gregor Henning, best known for his work with **Rhonda**, **Me and my Drummer**, **Niels Frevert**, **Vierkantretlager**, **Bernd Begemann** and **Die Sterne**. And for a good part it is his responsibility that „Leaf“ sounds as organic as its development was described by Miu. More so, the album has become as superbly diversified as the band's live performances, not

relying on one general sound, as ever so often seems to be the case in the triangle of Soul, Pop and Jazz, but lending each song its very distinct musical atmosphere, guided by the golden thread of a very special voice.

The ice cream is finished and the sun is shining again. Miu is sporting a big smile, as if she knew it it would be, or perhaps even caused it. In two hours she will be performing on the open air stage of the JazzBaltica festival, her guitar strap will tear in the middle of a song, but it won't spoil her mood or the performance. In front of the stage and despite the fresh wind, Nils Landgren, the festival director, will be dancing and smiling in a thin shirt. Miu will even succeed in involving the traditionally restrained Teutonic audience in a complex clapping game through a whole song.



Last year Miu gave two sold out test concerts in Hamburgs Elbphilharmonie, some time before its grand opening, „our best performances so far.“ And yet she still is working with a record label, which might be considered small to the industry's at times megalomaniac standards, „but this allows me to keep my artistic freedom. In a very fundamental way capitalism and music, or art in general are opposites. It can never be the foremost aim of art to be economical – Richard von Weizsäcker sure was right!“

Such statements have become rare in the pop world during last three decades and taking a closer look at Miu's lyrics about coming home and the fundamentals of life

leaves one in awe. „Choosing to be a musician is always an economical risk and everybody taking this path has to come to terms with that – or otherwise just become a butcher or a teacher.“ Her song „Next Big Thing“ tackles precisely such sentiments. The whole album „Leaf“ deals with subjects which would not stand a chance in one of the seemingly all present TV-casting shows – which, of course, is a blessing. As intricate as Miu’s music may be, she comes across refreshingly unpretentious and down to earth: „Success to me is being able to play my music with my band as long and with as few restraints as possible. To maintain my audience, an audience that at times may forgive or even appreciate being surprised by something new and different. I like to think that there is a market for my music.“ Yes, there is! And it is colourful, smells delightful and manages to do so without any artificial additives. Soon you will all be shopping there – bet you!

MIU LIVE 2017

- 23.03.17 **Burghausen** - Internationale Jazzwoche Burghausen
- 01.07.17 **Minden** - Open Air Marktplatz
- 12.07.17 **Lörrach** - Stimmen Festival (Support for China Moses)
- 18.08.17 **Timmendorf** - Parksinfonie
- 19.08.17 **Flensburg** - Hofkultur
- 26.08.17 **Osnabrück** - Kulturnacht
- 31.08.17 **Hamburg** - Mojo (CD-Release)
- 17.09.17 **Bremen** - Haus am Walde
- 22.09.17 **Unna** - Lindenbrauerei
- 23.09.17 **Horn Bad Meinberg** - Red Horn District
- 28.10.17 **Hamburg** - Landhaus Walter
- 10.11.17 **Bocholt** - Alte Molkerei
- 11.11.17 **Bad Homburg** - Speicher
- 19.11.17 **Reinbek** - Acousticfest Schloss Reinbek
- 24.11.17 **Dresden** - Jazztage
- 25.11.17 **Hoyerswerda** - Speicher No.1

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