

## TRANSWORLD TELEPHONE CONCERT, II

At the 'The Electronic Cafe'

Music through conference call and Photophone hook-up

from/to San Francisco, Frankfurt, Riga, London, Gambia, Kathmandu

March 20th, 1988

Live-connections of sound and image will be created in an international conference call, with the purpose, that "people of different cultures can experience themselves as residents of the same house." (Dainis Pinkis, Latvian Cultural Committee, Riga.)

Musical contributions, played over telephone and amplified at each station, will be exchanged between Riga, San Francisco, Gambia, Frankfurt, Kathmandu and London. As an exciting premiere for this TRANSWORLD TELEPHONE CONCERT, the use of interactive 'photophones' on some locations will turn the long lines of global telephone into windows of visual communication.

The ELECTRONIC CAFE is a place, where unusual means of communication are explored in a familiar environment. It is also an innovative form of worldwide musical entertainment. The local meets the global *in concert*. The grassroots dialogue across continents is open and openended. It is based on respect for differences, but uninhibited by borders or formalities. Beyond the fascination with new technologies, questions are addressed which only the doing of the experiment can answer: what are the sounds and images that connect in the electronic cafe? What kind of improvisation-in-realtime will participants from around the world create?

On March 20th, 1988, day and night are of equal length. The sun will be positioned right above the equator, shedding light on both hemispheres in a moment of balanced symmetry. Then the nights in the southern hemisphere will again be longer than the days, whereas spring begins in the northern hemisphere.

The first TRANSWORLD TELEPHONE CONCERT took place on June 21. 1986. Musicians from 10 stations on 5 continents played their tunes back and forth over telephone, eventually joining in a 'Transworld Telephone Improvisation' led by saxophonist Alfred 23 Harth in Frankfurt. There, in the 'Kunsthalle Schirn', a crowd of 500 listened to the concert. "The transcultural communication was particularly moving" wrote a reporter from the 'Frankfurter Rundschau', "when the man at the piano in Latvia played a swinging blues to the people in Frankfurt." But they were not the only ones listening. Participants in the hook-up from Berne, Linz, Jakarta, 3 places in Australia, Los Angeles, London, Gambia and the Balkan could hear it swinging equally well.

The response to the telephone concert was particularly enthusiastic in Riga, capital of Latvia in the Soviet Union. Indulis Blizens facilitated a visit to Latvia by concert organizer Micky Remann in March '87, where it was agreed to venture a second Transworld Telephone Concert. Following the inspiration of Joel Schatz (San Francisco) to add the photophone, the project was ready to go in its new form.

Micky Remann, who conceived TRANSWORLD TELEPHONE CONCERT I and II, is a German writer, artist and traveller. His book and essays featuring years of his living outside Europe have been widely published in Germany. More recently, his reports about the cultural opening in Gorbachev's Soviet Union also appeared in Britain (The Face) and the United States (Spin Magazine).

One of his more spectacular activities was to organize the '1. Frankfurt Underwater Concert - Bathing in Music', where the audience was swimming in a pool listening to sounds transmitted through underwater-speakers. Visiting British director Ken Campbell took up the idea and since then has produced two of his own underwater concerts in Liverpool and London.

**Participants:** Invited are musicians, performers and hosts from about 6 locations on 5 continents. (Not all are confirmed)

Riga. Host: Latvian Cultural Committee. Performing: 'Unexisted Feelings Restoration Project' (Avantgarde/disco/poetry).

Frankfurt. Host: OFF-TAT. Performing: 'Frankfurter Kurorchester' (classical/modern).

London. Host: The October Gallery. Performing: '3Mustapha3' (Balkan funk).

San Francisco. Host: San Francisco - Moscow Teleport.

Gambia, West Africa. Host: 'Boucarabou Hotel & Musical School' in Kerr Sering N'jagga. Performing: 'Malamini Jobarteh and other Jalibas' (Traditional African).

Kathmandu. Host: Vajra Hotel. Performing: International Theatre Group.

**Nature of contributions:** prepared musical pieces, multicontinental improvisations and dialogues between participants. Stations are free in designing their contribution. The only requirement is a willingness to listen to and dialogue with different forms of expression. Some technical and scheduling arrangements are mandatory for all .

**Duration:** ca. 4 hours.

**Date:** Sunday, March 20. 1988 (vernal equinox).

**Realization:** Produced by OFF-TAT Frankfurt, director: Dieter Buroch. Micky Remann will host the call. He is responsible for the overall design and will be available as a clearinghouse for suggestions and questions. The conference-call will originate in Frankfurt.

**Technical:** Each station arranges for optimal transmission and amplification of telephone signals. This is absolutely essential and should be checked by experts well in advance. Interferences or feed back from PA systems on one station can seriously distort the whole conference call. All participants should be aware that a project like this stretches the capacities of the phonelines to the limits.

Quality taping of the event is also required for documentation and filming (see below).

**There will be a test-conference-call / rehearsal three days before the concert.**

**Finances:** Basic costs for the hook-up and organizing are covered by OFF-TAT in Frankfurt. All costs relating to local organizing, technical equipment, etc, is the responsibility of local hosts. Participants are encouraged to seek additional sponsorship for the local as well as the global budget.

Already the Latvian Cultural Committee has agreed to pay for a direct line Riga - Frankfurt for the duration of the concert.

Documentary film: Riga Documentary Film Studio, represented by director Romualds Pipars, will produce a film about the TRANSWORLD TELEPHONE CONCERT, with scenes from the different simultaneous events.

Three two-person filmteams from Riga are available to travel. The film will also include film- and videomaterial shot by others. Participants who send in their videos, will in turn receive a copy of the completed film from Riga Film Studio.

Film finances: All production costs are covered by Riga Documentary Film Studio, including travel expenses for the film teams. (As far as serviced by Aeroflot). Lodging and food for 2-3 days is to be covered by local organizers.

Participants who want to host a Riga Film Team at the TRANSWORLD TELEPHONE CONCERT should contact us soon, so that necessary preparations can be made.

\* Micky Remann \*

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