

CONVERTIBLE : LOVE

7" vinyl single / digital – Konkord 095, release date: 25 nov 2016

„Music should first and foremost be a sensual experience. It has to breathe. The most magical force of music is the irrational. If it doesn't grab me physically, touch me, waft through me, it becomes banal, irrelevant and trivial.“

For Hans Platzgumer, nothing in life is trivial. Throughout his several decades long career, whether making music or writing, Hans takes us on a journey into the unknown and unexpected. His music -- like his several critically acclaimed novels -- expresses his relentless curiosity, passion and search for new frontiers.

When Hans was 17 he founded the Lo-fi Indie-Sound. With the release of his LP “Tod der CD!” (death of/to the CD) Hans proved himself to be an artist who was well ahead of his time. While living in the US with his band ‘HP Zinker’ he achieved the ground breaking grunge-rock songs for which he is widely known. Since the mid-90s Hans has continued his relentless search for new and distinctive soundscapes of electronic music, such as „Soundtrack“ (Konkord 035, 2008). With the formation of his band ‘Convertible’, he mostly performed ‘unplugged’ to produce songs of a hauntingly delicate and timeless beauty. Hans’ latest CD, „Miniaturen“ (Konkord 086, 2015) is a microcosm of minimalistic chamber music.

His current release, „Love“ expresses his profound feelings of loss following the death of his friend, the New York songwriter Jack Barschi who died in 2014 following a long battle with cancer. Hans admired the way Jack bravely fought his illness and maintained his conviction throughout that life with its big and small miracles -- especially love -- was worth living. „It Ain't Over Yet“ is Jack's moving no-holds-barred-tell-it-like-it-is account of his struggle to come to terms with his illness and impending death and to express his unbroken spirit and passion for life. Hans Platzgumer set Jack Barschi's ballad to music with enthusiasm and verve to produce a fresh sound which recalls the ballads of the young Bob Dylan (who like Jack also lived in Greenwich Village). This song comprises one half of the Love duo -- the New York side. „Prettiest Blue“ and „Unaimed Arrow“ shapes the other for which Hans adapted the lively lyrics of his longtime Bostonian collaborator Hannah MacKenna to compose two more moving monuments to the greatness of love. Following the dark melancholy of „Prettiest Blue“ (“I don't have the paddles, I don't have the boat”) is the airily sweet and unfettered serenity of „Unaimed Arrow“ that expresses the adage that the unaimed arrow never misses its mark. In these songs, notes of music (played by piano and guitar) are not drawn out but instead are lightly dabbled, like discrete spots of color on a wall, to produce a sound of great clarity that seems to be here, there and everywhere all at once. The three pieces last only ten minutes. Yet, they tell us everything we need to know about life, what makes life worth living and what continues to endure even after we are gone: Love.