

Today, the appearance of a musical instrument like the recorder in pop and rock music, swing, jazz and other comparable styles is still rare. Although the recorder's natural sound fits rather good to combos and bands, it mostly needs to be amplified to get heard among other loud modern instruments. With the development of Elody (a stylish modern harmonic alto recorder equipped with an integrated pickup made by Mollenhauer Recorders in Fulda/Germany) it is finally also possible to get connected to any common effects unit – and in consequence to a completely new world of recorder sounds.

The thrilling characteristics of Elody encourage to redefine the recorder's role in various band contexts: It is now possible to play major solo parts and act as powerful as an electric guitar – even in such tough styles like rock 'n' roll or heavy metal. The perspectives of Elody also inspired my brother Aleks and me to look for new musical horizons for all the other types of recorders. And so we established the Vintgar band and orchestra in order to realize mostly our own new groovy compositions with the recorder in the centre. After having recorded our first CD *Kaleidoscope*, we decided to work out also play-along accompaniments from the original sound material, and I wrote down relevant recorder parts in order to provide new sheet music for other ambitious recorder players. This material is split up here in two volumes, and the accompaniments can be freely downloaded as mp3-files for owners of this sheet music edition.

As I have always been interested in the performance of different musical styles, you will find in this volume no. 1 a charming mix of grooves, moves and sounds: The airy piece 'Vintgar' is a chilling mediterranean ballad (with an accompaniment in two different versions). 'Maiden of the Smile' is a song between an Irish ballad and pop rhythms. 'The Windhover' melts a hard rock rondo theme with varying tricky sections in the way of a piece as performed by Yes. 'Fairies Robbing an Orchard' is a slow orchestral waltz for the traditional ballroom (and also comes along with an alternative 'unplugged' accompaniment). 'Wolken' is an atmospheric electro pop piece with a repeated trance solo. 'The Glove and the Lions' is a old funny poem in Dixieland style, accompanied by a brass band. 'Red Red Rose' is a melange of Australian rock 'n' roll and a groovy folk chanty. Like on the CD *Kaleidoscope*, also the accompaniments are recorded throughout with real instruments.

We do admit, that some of the pieces are not easy to play. And for some of them it is warmly recommended to use either some kind of modern harmonic recorder or the brand new Elody. But we think you will have fun and still learn a lot from this new original recorder music.

Nik Tarasov

Vintgar band & orchestra

Nik Tarasov – vocals, recorders & elody / Uwe Metzler – guitars / Michael Lauenstein – accordion / Rainer Scheithauer – piano & hammond / Benedikt Moser – fender rhodes / Keiko Waldner – violin / Janis Lielbardis – viola / Wolfgang Reichert – cello / Christoph Sauer – bass / Alvin Mills – bass / Henrik Mumm – contrabass & bass / Oliver Biella – contrabass & guitars / Aleks Tarasov – drums & percussion / Michael Kiedaisch – percussion / Carelys Carreras – clarinet / Ralf Reichert – trumpet & flugelhorn / Sebastian Schorr – horn / Mario Rosenfeld – trombone / Herbert Waldner – tuba

Executive production of all audio material: Aura – Music Productions Stuttgart/Germany
Produced, recorded and edited at TonstudioMitte Stuttgart by Aleks Tarasov
Recording engineer for hammond & grand piano: Rainer Scheithauer
Mixed by Markus Born at Kleine Audiowelt
Stem mastering by Tom Krüger
Photography & artwork: Markus Berdux