

# Bernd-Michael Land

Transmitter 594kHz

The musical opus

## The Project

This album is to be understood as a homage to good old medium wave transmitter.

The last german station has been shut down already and thus ended the long-standing tradition of medium wave radio.



I was nothing but a kid, around 9 or 10 years old, when I first got my own radio. It was one of these transistor receivers which were quite popular at the time.

The receivers were tiny and affordable. Most of the compact radios were protected by a leather case and thus perfect travelling companions.

I hardly ever left without my little radio and sometimes just tied it to my bicycle's handlebar.

On some of the small portable radios, mostly the Japanese ones, one would find the writing "solid state" - implying that no vibration sensitive components like tubes etc were integrated.

At home, we mostly listened to medium wave radio as well.

Around Frankfurt, there were namely AFN and, of course, the Hessische Rundfunk, both equally well receivable in our region.

## Good bye, steam radio!

Good?

Actually, the medium wave's sound was always quite muffled and noisy. From time to time, there was crackling and creaking, or a different, stronger transmitter would disturb the signal. The volume level was also far from stable.

But our expectations weren't as high and moreover, we didn't know anything else, yet.

True medium wave enthusiasts adore the ritual of delicately screening the channels and mourn the good old times. Listening to radio with medium wave transmitters evokes an impression of trying to start a fire.



Today, we live in a modern, digital world. High costs and the outmoded, non-adequate reception quality have caused the shut-down of my hometown's radio station in Rodgau.

In January 2010, the Hessische Rundfunk stopped broadcasting and two years later, the two transmission towers, each 126m high, were deconstructed completely.

I was given the wonderful opportunity to set up my mobile studio inside the former broadcast hall and record this album in it.

## Good bye, steam radio!

My very special thanks go to Stefan Wolf, who provided me with the broadcast hall for my recording and therefore enabled me to realize this project.



At the same time, I'd like to thank Ralf Kläs for supporting me and my project, who kindly approved the use of images from his radio collection for this 16-page booklet. View also: [www.antik-radio.de](http://www.antik-radio.de)



## The Music

As with many of my earlier projects, the electronic part of the composition and the natural sounds from field recordings merge into a strong symbiosis.



**Field recordings near the transmitter**

Within a transdisciplinary context, the different sounds' dialogs interlace and relate intermedially. Thus arises a hybrid reality in sound, space and time.

Electronic sound elements created by both, analog and digital synthesizers and sequencers, correlate dynamically with mostly alienated, acoustic, natural sounds.

Part of the composition is created by mutual inspiration and stimulation on the auditory level.

All synthesizers, sequencers and samplers were recorded and mixed in real time inside the Hessischer Rundfunk's big broadcast hall. No computers were used.

As an important medium for creativity and communication, the electronic synthesizer is the most essential working tool in all processes.

## Environment

From 1967 to 2010, the Hessische Rundfunk's medium wave broadcasting station was located within close proximity to highway A3 near Rodgau-Weiskirchen. To be seen from far away, almost as a symbolic landmark at the gates of Frankfurt, both transmission towers were rising 126m above the ground. In 2012, the tension cables were dismantled.

The broadcasting building itself appears to be rather inconspicuous. The facade was cased in sheet copper to a great extent in order to shield the station from exterior perturbations, such as aeronautical radio.



The show was transmitted at frequency 594kHz, with 400 kW (and later 300kW) capacity.

**Old radio and studio technology from the 60s  
It was still standing around the building.**



**What used to be sinfully expensive high-end  
equipment is now at best only electronic scrap.**



## Environment

Energy everywhere.

Inspired by the premises fascinating technological equipment, I tried to transpose the flair of this long-gone era musically.

My intention was to catch the station's remaining energy and integrate it in my work.

**Large defective transmitting tubes  
-Relics from earlier times.**



**Some of the discarded  
old tape recorders  
from the former  
broadcasting hall.**



## The Manifest

Apart from producing music within the station, field recordings from the immediate environment were included. Soundscapes, picturing the murmuring forest, the nearby highway or the rippling, small stream Roday, resulted from these field recordings.

Those recordings were edited and reworked with effects later on in the studio in order to incorporate them into the music in a transdisciplinary way.

Due to this audiophile connection between field recordings and electronic music, the building itself is portrayed tonally.

**The picture was taken during the studio setup and shows some of the sound generators.**



The imaginary space is directly related to inspiration and innovation.



## The Machines

The following synthesizers and samplers were used for project "Transmitter 594kHz" during the recordings inside the old broadcast hall:

Haken Continuum - Fingerboard (full size)

EMS Synthi AKS - Modular Synthesizer

EMS Synthi E - Modular Synthesizer

Moog Sonic Six - Analog Synthesizer

Arturia MiniBrute SE - Analog Synthesizer

Korg Kronos 61 - Digital Audio Workstation

Mini Sound Lab - Analog Synthesizer

Moog Voyager - Analog Synthesizer

Roland VP-770 - Vocoder Keyboard

Flight Of Harmony - Infernal Noise Machine

Yamaha Tenori On - Synth & Sequencer

Korg Micro-X - Digital Synthesizer

Korg Volca Beats - Drumcomputer

Korg Volca Bass - Bass Synthesizer

Korg Volca Keys - Mini-Synthesizer

Analog Modularsystem - Modules  
From various manufacturers, Moog,  
Roland, Doepfer, and many more.  
Different sequencers and effects.



## Curriculum Vitae

- 1954 - born on the 11th June in Frankfurt / Main
- 1969 - first musical steps with tape recorder and organ
- 1970 - first concerts with various local bands (Rock, Krautrock)
- 1971 - concerts with organ, synthesizer and theremin (Aliens-Project)
- 1974 - publication of the album "Intake" (MC)
- 1975 - member in the Frankfurt street theater "Baufirma Meissel & Co"
- 1976 - keyboardist in diverse bands, for example "Kotzbrocken"
- 1977 - first SynxsS-Studio in Dreieich-Götzenhain (experimental electronics)
- 1978 - publication of the album "Flash" (MC)
- 1982 - production of first sound libraries for movie and theater
- 1983 - project "Biosequencer"
- 1983 - publication of the album "Sequential Bitch" (MC)
- 1991 - move of the studio to Dreieich (advertisement and film music)
- 1997 - move of the studio to Offenbach-Wildhof
- 1998 - founding of the musician community "Elektro-Kartell"
- 1999 - publication of the album "Bikers-Paradise" (CD)
- 2000 - project "Mainhattan Hardtrance Project"
- 2000 - publication of the library "Australian Collection"
- 2001 - live project "Aliens-Project vs. Programmierte Welten" with Coco Adam

**2001 -Frankfurt meets Cologne @ BCN Frankfurt  
Musikmesse\_Festival  
with Aliens-Project & Dr. Walker live**



- 2001 -Frankfurt meets Köln @ BCN Aliens-Project & Dr. Walker live
- 2001 - publication of the album "Drop Out" (CD)
- 2001 - publication of the library "Bad Samples"
- 2002 - project Cool-TV / (documentation)
- 2002 - publication of the album "TheReMinator" (CD)
- 2002 - project "Bembeltechno"
- 2002 - project "Toy of the Month" (Sound libraries)
- 2003 - project "Echofields" for Newcomer-TV (Hessen Fernsehen HR3)
- 2003 - project "Summer-Special" (Hessen television HR3)
- 2004 - publication of the library "Bionics"
- 2004 - guest musician for the album "Zeitgeist" of The Dop Experience

## Curriculum Vitae

- 2006 - fixed member at the EK-Lounge (Ambient Live-Session Project)
- 2006 - publication of the album "Kamerun" (CD)
- 2006 - initiator of the Modularsynthesizer-Meetings "Happy Knobbing"
- 2008 - publication of the album "Behind the blue Room" (CD)
- 2009 - project "Das Lächeln der Bäume" (when trees smile) in real quadrophony
- 2010 - project service travel (documentation) Hessen television HR3
- 2011 - publication of the album "Zero Gravity" (CD)
- 2011 - live project "Skalien" with Siegfried Kärcher
- 2012 - production of new sound-libraries for Korg / KaPro (Namm Show 2013)
- 2013 - move to Rodgau-Hainhausen
- 2014 - new project "Thau" with Frank Tischer
- 2014 - new solo live project "Das elektronische OHRakel"
- 2014 - publication of the album "Live im Radom" with Frank Tischer
- 2015 - publication of the album "Elektra" / Thau with Frank Tischer
- 2015 - publication of the album "Intervall" (when trees smile)
- 2015 - publication of the album "Odyssee" (when trees smile)
- 2015 - publication of the album "Metamorphose" (when trees smile)
- 2015 - publication of the album "Quintessenz" (when trees smile)
- 2014 - new solo live project "Meeresgrund" (quadrophonic)
- 2015 - Deutscher Schallwelle Music Award "Best Artist 2014" (1st Place)



- 2016 - new project "Transmitter 594 KHz"
- 2016 - Deutscher Schallwelle Music Award "Best Artist 2015" (3rd Place)
- 2016 - Deutscher Schallwelle Music Award "Best Album 2015" (3rd Place)
- 2016 - publication of the album "Meeresgrund"
- 2016 - new project "Klangreise zum Himalaya" with HaDi Schmidt
- 2016 - Project "Bohemian Polyphony" / Castle Kalich, Trebusin (Czech Republic)
- 2017 - publication of the album "Transmitter 594 kHz"
- 2017 - new solo live project "Slowing World"
- 2017 - new solo live project "Hyperreale Reflexion"

## Biography

**Bernd-Michael "Bernie" Land**, born on November 11, 1954, in Frankfurt am Main, is a musician (synthesizer, keyboard, electronics), sounddesigner and composer.

Since the early 70ies, he has mainly produced his own compositions and works, which do not necessarily fit into a certain category.

His musical style could be best described as experimental electronic and electronic instrumental music, including electronica, electro, bioacoustics, field recordings, soundscapes and sound art elements, but also influenced by techno, techhouse and krautrock.

Likewise other "electronic passionates" from that era, Land started of quite profane, spending his first self-earned money on equipment.

**In the SynxsS-Studio  
in Offenbach/Main  
2010**



In 1969, he began with a simple transistor organ and tape machine, followed by a self-constructed big briar etherwave theremin and a first synthesizer.

Effect devices were rather rare and expensive at that time, so that special effects such as echos and loops were created by the help of rebuilt tape decks.

Being the keyboarder of several underground and rock bands, his equipment constantly changed over the years.

## Biography

One of these bands was the legendary neu-isenburger Band "Kotzbrocken" consisting also of Henni Nachtsheim (Badesalz), Peter "Crepper" Gerhardt, Bernd "Petzi" Petzold, Thorsten Finke, Peter Krapp. But also new bands, such as "Mohrnkopp" and "Space Fart" were founded by these members.

For quite a while, his basic equipment consisted of a Hammond B3 with Leslie, a Hohner Stringorchestra, the classic Fender-Rhodes Seventythree (Mark III), completed by synthesizers like the legendary Minimoog and an ARP Odyssey.

His musical roots were lying in Krautrock, Rock and electronic experimental music. Having bought a big Roland System 700 modular synthesizer, Land was given all possibilities to experiment freely.

Always in search of new sounds, he learned to precisely handle modular synthesizers and discovered new possibilities in the field of sounddesign and controlling technique of modular synths.



Until 2013, the "Walhalla" modular system was in operation in his "SynxsS-Studio", being one of the world's largest analog modular synthesizers with an impressive width of 5,5m and height of 2,2m

After 1991, the studio was gradually extended by digital synthesizers and samplers (Kurzweil 250 System, NED-Synclavier, CMI Fairlight III) and highquality outboard-equipment was added. But the focus always lay on analog and modular synthesizers.

## Biography

In subsequent years, from 2000 to 2006, a collaboration with Markus "Coco" Adam und the "Aliens-Project vs. Programmierte Welten" label was established and live concerts in several german clubs were played.

Over the course of the cooperation, two LPs resulted from live recordings: "TheReMinator" and "Kamerun".

Apart from his solo performances, collaborations with other musicians always played an important role aswell.

Danceable club music was published under his pseudonym "Aliens-Project" and rather calm music, such as ambient, chillout and sound art was published under his real name "Bernd-Michael Land".

At the same time, an additional focus lay on sound design and on commissioned productions for advertisement, theater, film and TV.

In 2006, Bernd-Michael Land became an active member of the "Elektro-Kartell" musicians community's ambient project "EK-Lounge".

[www.ek-lounge.de](http://www.ek-lounge.de)  
[www.elektro-kartell.de](http://www.elektro-kartell.de)



Other projects in collaboration with other artists were, for example, the LP "Zeitgeist" with "The Dop Experience", Patty Stucky and César Rosón, and the "Skalien" live project with Frankfurt's artist Siegfried Kärcher.

**2014 -Bernd-Michael Land  
live @ Luminale Festival  
in Sanktpeter church  
Frankfurt / Main**



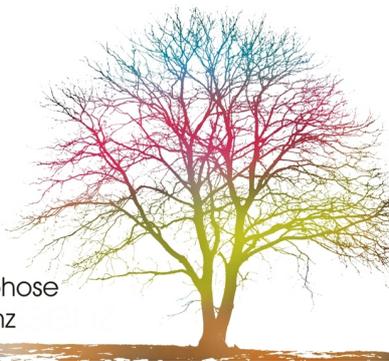
## Biography

Particularly worth highlighting are the extremely complex quadrophonic sound art concerts, which were presented from 2011 on, after three years of preparation.

## Bernd-Michael Land

### Das Lächeln der Bäume

Intervall  
Odyssee  
Metamorphose  
Quintessenz



The impressive work of art "When Trees' Smile" comprises five hours of music in total.

In 2015, it was finally offered as exclusive collector's edition in a strictly limited collection box of 4 CDs.

Since not every concert hall is suitable for quadrophonic performances, the piece had been presented in stereo as well.

For instance, during Luminale Frankfurt, in the Stadtschloss Fulda, in the Radom on top of the Wasserkuppe as well as on various other festivals.

From 2014 on, several electronic concerts took place in collaboration with the Fuldaer musician Frank Tischer, from which the limited album "live in Radom" emerged.

**2014**  
**Bernd-Michael Land &**  
**Frank Tischer live in#**  
**the Radom /**  
**Wasserkuppe**



## Biography

As a result of this collaboration, the electronic duo "THAU" was founded in the same year. Point of musical reference was the 70ies classic electronic music (Berliner Schule), supplemented by modern sound elements.

In autumn 2014, recordings in the SynxsS-Studio were started with instant compositions and were followed by a first Album "Elektra" in May 2015.



Another exciting project is called "Das elektronische OHRakel", "the electronic oracle", premiered in the Institut für neue Medien in 2014.

It musically reprocesses and critically questions the wars of the last 60 years.

The pollution of our oceans by plastic waste is addressed in the work "Meeresgrund", "Seabed".

It was created from March until October 2015 and first performed at the Rodgauer Art in October 2015.

The related album was released on World's Environment Day, 2016.

"Transmitter 594kHz" was the last finished project in 2016.

The homage to the good old medium-wave broadcasting was recorded inside the Hessische Rundfunk's former broadcasting Station in Rodgau-Weiskirchen in February 2016.

The album was released in Mai 2017.



## New Projects

The "Sound Journey To Himalaya" (Die Klangreise zum Himalaya) is a recent live project, which presented electronic music, singing bowls and gongs from 2016 on, resulting from a collaboration by Bernd-Michael Land and HaDi Schmidt.

A further project has been developed in 2017, resulting in an electronic-acoustic live soundconcert. "Slowing World" focuses on the rush of the world, sustainability and deceleration. Along with electronic sound creation, asian singing bowls and gongs will be used.



"Bohemian Polyphony" is a collaborative project, formed with 8 other musicians, who all together spent a week on Schloss Kalich in Trebusin (Czech Republik) during September 2016. A double album, released on bandcamp, resulted from it:

<https://bohemianpolyphony.bandcamp.com/releases>



At the same time, Bernd-Michael Land produced several songs for his soloalbum inside his bedroom studio at Schloss Kalich.



There will always be music in uncommon places. Concerts inside the massive cooling tower of a coal-fired power station, inside a planetarium, several churches and at Radom on top of the Wasserkuppe are being planned.

## Discography



1974 - "Intake" / MC



1978 - "Flash" / MC



1983 - "Sequential Bitch" / MC



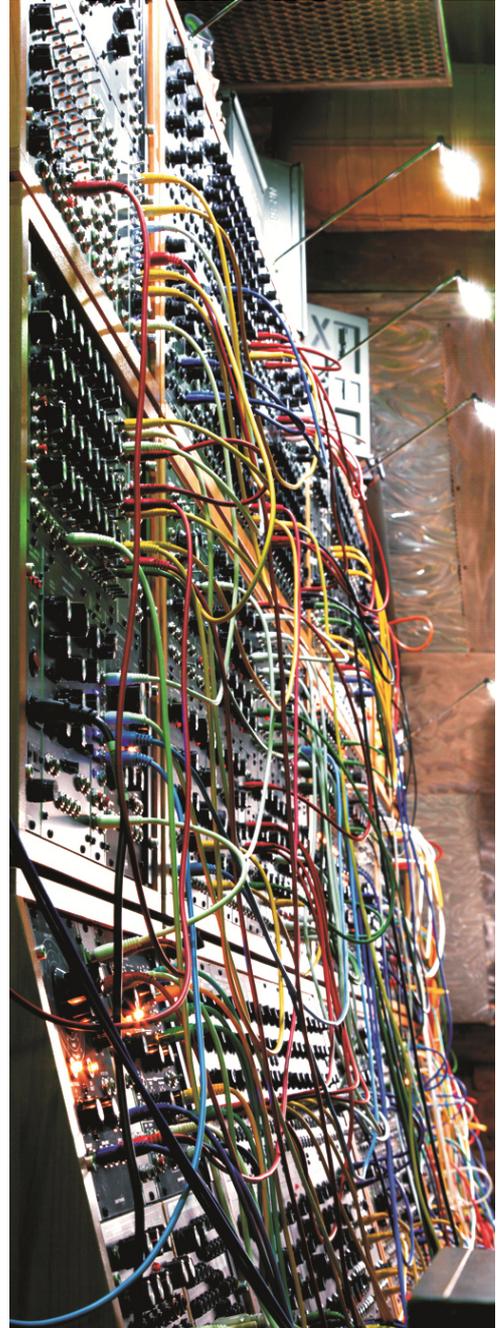
1989 - "Back on Earth" / CD



1999 - "Bikers Paradise" / CD



2001 - "Drop Out" / CD



© Foto: Bluescreen / Stefan Trippler

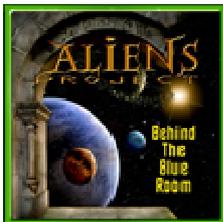
## Discography



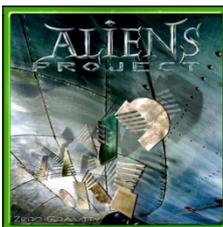
2001 - "TheReMinator" / CD



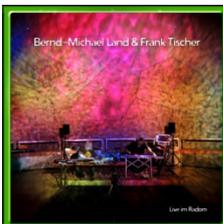
2006 - "Kamerun da chillaz" / CD



2008 - "Behind the blue Room" / CD



2011 - "Zero Gravity" / CD



2014 - "Live im Radom" (Land&Tischer) / CD

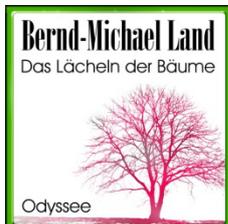


2015 - "Elektra" / Thau mit Frank Tischer

## Discography



2015 - "Intervall - Das Lächeln der Bäume" / CD



2015 - "Odyssee - Das Lächeln der Bäume" / CD



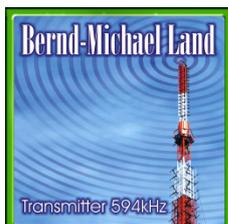
2015 - "Metamorphose - Das Lächeln der Bäume" / CD



2015 - "Quintessenz - Das Lächeln der Bäume" / CD



2016 - "Meeresgrund" / CD



2017 - "Transmitter 594kHz" / CD

# Bernd-Michael Land

Transmitter 594kHz

## Contact

### **Bernd-Michael Land**

Music – Sound Art – Sound Design

Am Feldkreuz 7  
63110 Rodgau-Hainhausen

Phone        +49 6106 770046  
                  +49 171 6506156

E-Mail        [synxxs@aol.com](mailto:synxxs@aol.com)

More information:  
[www.bernd-michael-land.com/](http://www.bernd-michael-land.com/)



© 2017 / Bernd-Michael Land



# Bernd-Michael Land

Transmitter 594kHz

## Links

Bernd-Michael Land / wikipedia: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernd-Michael\\_Land](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernd-Michael_Land)  
Bernd-Michael Land / homebase: <http://bernd-michael-land.com/>  
Aliens-Project / newsblog (studio&more): <http://aliens-project.de/blog/>  
Aliens-Project / homepage and archive: <http://www.aliensworld.de/>  
Bembeltechno / homebase: <http://www.bembeltechno.de/>

facebook:

Bernd-Michael Land / official: <https://www.facebook.com/bernielandmusic>  
Bernd-Michael Land / privat: <https://www.facebook.com/berndmichael.land>  
Bernd-Michael Land / fanpage: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bmlfans/>  
Aliens-Project / official: <https://www.facebook.com/aliensproject>

media:

Bernd-Michael Land / youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUvMyhh1-4c1\\_x2-C8mt0w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUvMyhh1-4c1_x2-C8mt0w)  
Bernd-Michael Land / soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/bernd-michaelland>  
Aliens-Project / Last.fm: <http://www.last.fm/de/music/Aliens-Project>  
Aliens-Project / myspace: <https://myspace.com/alienzworld>

others:

Bernd-Michael Land in the cultural database of the Federal Republic of Germany:  
<http://kulturportal.de/-/kulturschaffende/detail/77051>  
THAU in the German National Library: <http://d-nb.info/1071415824>  
Bernd-Michael Land in the German National Library: <http://d-nb.info/gnd/135521076>  
Aliens-Project in the German National Library: <http://d-nb.info/gnd/10343187-1>



The new CD-Cover „Transmitter 594kHz“