

# Rhys Chatham

## The Bern Project

Catalogue number: hint 08  
Format: CD  
Package: 4-panel chipboard sleeve  
Release date: January 2010

1. War In Heaven 2. A Rite For Samhain 3. Scrying In Smoke 4. My Lady Of The Loire  
5. Is There Life After Guitar Trio? 6. Under The Petals Of The Rose  
Total playing time: 43.41

 **hinterzimmer records**  
[www.hinterzimmer-records.com](http://www.hinterzimmer-records.com)



In the summer of 2008, Rhys Chatham visited Bern, Switzerland for a Guitar Trio performance together with local musicians that the club had recruited for him. They rehearsed during the day and played a fabulous show that night. Rhys was blown away by the skills of the drummer and bass player and talked about plans to form a trio - half a year later he was back in Bern and introduced Julian Sartorius (drums) and Mago Flueck (bass) to new compositions he brought along. Beat Unternährer on trombone joined as guest musician.

Reto Mäder recorded many hours of these sessions on a multi-track machine. Over the next few months, Mäder listened to the recordings, separated the wheat from the chaff, selected the best parts and made pre-mixes. He even mixed different parts of the takes together and sent them to Rhys, who noted what he wanted to have changed or replaced. After more than 100 hours of work, a brand new Rhys Chatham album was finally mixed and mastered.

Some tracks are only slightly modified from the original recordings, with just a few effects added or small sections from other parts of the recording sessions mixed in. Other sections emerged purely in the mixing studio and were created from different parts of the sessions. And some sections were complemented by extra instrumental tracks played by Mäder himself.

The result is an album of new Rhys Chatham tracks with this band - something you haven't heard since the Die Donnergötter recordings of the 80s...

### Biographical notes:

Rhys Chatham emerged from the dazzling New York art and punk scene, but has lived in Paris for the last 20 years. In the 70s, he integrated a rock band line-up with contemporary minimalist composition. After his studies with Morton Subotnick and La Monte Young – one of the inventors of minimal music – he began to play regularly with Tony Conrad and Charlemagne Palestine, two of the earliest exponents of drone music and, like Chatham, key players of American minimal music. Then a gig in May 1976 in Manhattan at CBGBs by The Ramones changed his life, and he began his long love affair with the electric guitar.

You will find Chatham's name in history books as part of the so called No Wave scene. Besides people like Arto Lindsay, Lydia Lunch, James Chance, Bill Laswell, Arthur Russell or Brian Eno, he is reckoned as an important influence for bands like Sonic Youth or Godspeed! You Black Emperor, resulting in members of these bands taking part in his recent Guitar Trio revival performances.

Over the last twenty years Rhys Chatham has attracted interest with his stunning guitar orchestra live projects for 100, 200 and sometimes even 400 guitarists (in front of Sacré Coeur in Paris). He still performs his legendary 1977 composition Guitar Trio regularly all over the world with locally recruited musicians. The title of a 3 CD-boxset of 2008 says it all: Guitar Trio is My Life.

Julian Sartorius is one of the most sought-after improv jazz drummers in Switzerland and plays also often in rock and pop bands.

Mago Flueck is part of Bern's Garage Rock scene and currently also plays in an aspiring Dub Electronica band. Besides that he regularly plays music for theatre productions.

Beat Unternährer has been a free-improv activist for many years and has taken part in many different jazz projects in Switzerland.

Reto Mäder is one half of the Hinterzimmer Records management and musically active as RM74 and with his band projects Sum Of R and Ural Umbo.

 **hinterzimmer@hinterzimmer-records.com**  
more info & soundsamples: [www.hinterzimmer-records.com](http://www.hinterzimmer-records.com)

