



MOUNTAIN MELODY



THE ESSENCE OF THE MOUNTAIN  
BECOMES SOUND.

THE VASTNESS OF THE VIEW  
BECOMES MELODY.

*»The proportions in the valley, on the other hand, small or even void.  
Up here, our mind attains a generous attitude.*

*The actual height of the mountain is not always decisive. The crater rim of Vulcano is only a few hundred meters above sea level. Burning rocks. Steaming sulfur fumes. On the one side, the eye gazes down into the volcanic cone. Here the Romans heard Vulcanus, the god of forging and fire, hammering away. Thus the mountain became the eponym for all volcanoes. The sound of the saxophone reverberates as if in a huge amphitheater.*

*On the other side, the eye wanders over the myth-drenched  
Aeolian islands.*

*Over several years, in different countries, I climbed mountain tops with musical friends. Sometimes arduously, but always in a good mood. Always with high quality recording equipment. Always with an instrument. We even dragged a bass-balalaika and some copper tube chimes up to Olympus, the seat of the gods.*

*Yes, up there civilization is silent. No motors, no digital beeping. Sporadically the call of a mountain jackdaw. Only the wind in all its frequency ranges disturbs the quietness. We often had to wait for it to die down.*

*Sometimes we caught an echo. But mostly there are no room acoustics at all. Just a complete openness of tonal and visual propagation.*

*Essential music recordings were created from the perspective of the summit and then later, in the studio, supplemented and merged into this album.«*

PREIKESTOLEN [604 HM] Norway  
KJERAG [1.084 HM] Norway

## 1 THE VIKING 3:56

MULO FRANCEL & DIE ABENTEURER

WITH EVELYN HUBER, D.D. LOWKA & WOLFGANG LOHMEIER:

ANDREAS BINDER \_\_\_\_\_ FRENCH HORN

PHILIPP STERZER \_\_\_\_\_ ALTO FLUTE

EVELYN HUBER \_\_\_\_\_ HARP

D.D. LOWKA \_\_\_\_\_ BASS, SMALL METAL PERCUSSION

WOLFGANG LOHMEIER \_\_\_\_\_ DRUMS

MULO FRANCEL \_\_\_\_\_ TENOR SAX, CONTRAB. CLARINET, TUBE CHIMES

Recorded by Dieter Pimiskern, Wolfgang Lohmeier &

Philipp Winter in September 2015

Mixed by Philipp Winter

Photo by Mike Meyer

*»Late summer in the north.*

*Across the Lofoten Islands. Along the Lysefjord, up to the spectacular  
plateau of Preikestolen and to the Kjerag.*

*A soulful landscape.«*





HIMMELTINDAN [962 HM] Lofoten Islands

## 2 LOFOTEN ARCTIC WATERS 0:36

WOLFGANG LOHMEIER — VIKING HORN  
MULO FRANCEL — WATER RECORDINGS ON HIMMELTINDAN  
MOUNTAIN ON LOFOTEN ISLANDS / NORWAY

Rec. by Mulo Francel on Himmeltindan on Lofoten Islands in September 2017  
Mixed by Philipp Winter  
Photo by Mike Meyer

*»high level video shooting and music recording.«*

**3 THE WISE (SAVE THE EARTH PART I) 4:57**  
**4 INVOCATION (SAVE THE EARTH PART II) 0:53**  
**5 THE 11TH COMMANDMENT**  
**(SAVE THE EARTH PART III) 5:32**

**QUADRO NUEVO & CAIRO STEPS:**

<b>BASEM DARWISCH</b> _____	<b>ODU</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>RAGEED WILLIAM</b> _____	<b>NAY FLUTE</b> (STUDIO)
<b>RAFAT MOHAMMED</b> _____	<b>PERCUSSION</b> (STUDIO)
<b>EVELYN HUBER</b> _____	<b>SANTUR, HARP</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>ANDREAS HINTERSEHER</b> _____	<b>ACCORDION</b> (STUDIO)
<b>D.D. LOWKA</b> _____	<b>BASS, PERCUSSION</b> (STUDIO)
<b>MULO FRANCEL</b> _____	<b>CLARINET, BASS CLARINET</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP),
	<b>DOUBLE-BASS CLARINET</b> (STUDIO)

Rec. by Mulo Francel on Mount Catherine / Sinai (2.629 m) in October 2019  
Mixed by Philipp Winter. Photo by René van der Voorden.

*»After graduating from high school, I traveled through Israel and Egypt. On the Sinai Peninsula, we climbed the mountain on which Moses once received the 10 Commandments. We spent the night in our sleeping bags on the summit and marveled at a breathtaking view over the lonely mountain range as the sun rose. I have never forgotten that view. Now I'm climbing a mountain again. With my Egyptian friend Basem Darwisch, who is the band leader of Cairo Steps. With Evelyn Huber, who brings a biblical harp and ancient santoor. With writers and photographers. All the way up, to the highest mountain in Egypt. From there you can see across to the slightly lower Mount of Moses. His 10 commandments guide the coexistence of people and their relationship with God.*

*Unfortunately, they don't tell us how to grasp the idea of Creation.  
We are looking for the 11th commandment: SAVE THE EARTH«*

— MOUNT CATHERINE [2,629 m] Sinai



## **6 OLYMPIC VOICE (SAX & MOUNTAIN ECHO) 2:10** **7 RISING OF COLLECTIVE HAPPINESS 9:00**

### **MULO FRANCEL & FRIENDS:**

<b>NICOLE HEARTSEEKER</b> _____	<b>INDIAN BINA HARMONIUM</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>JULIE FELLMAN</b> _____	<b>COPPER TUBE CHIMES</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>PHILIPP QUACK</b> _____	<b>BASS BALALAIKA</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>ELA WALLNER</b> _____	<b>FLUTE</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>FRANZ HELLER</b> _____	<b>HAPI DRUM</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
<b>RAGEED WILLIAM</b> _____	<b>DUDUK</b> (STUDIO)
<b>D.D. LOWKA</b> _____	<b>BASS BALALAIKA</b> (STUDIO)
<b>MULO FRANCEL</b> _____	<b>TENOR SAX</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP & STUDIO), <b>CONTRABASS CLARINET, SANSULA,</b> <b>COPPER TUBE CHIMES</b> (STUDIO)

Rec. by Mulo Francel & Franz Heller on Mount Olympus / Greece in May 2015  
Mixed by Philipp Winter  
Photo by Marinus Franzl

*»Collective happiness after an exhausting climb on Greece's highest plateau.«*

OLYMPUS [2,918 HM] Greece



GREAT WALL OF CHINA China  
BEIJING / FORBIDDEN CITY

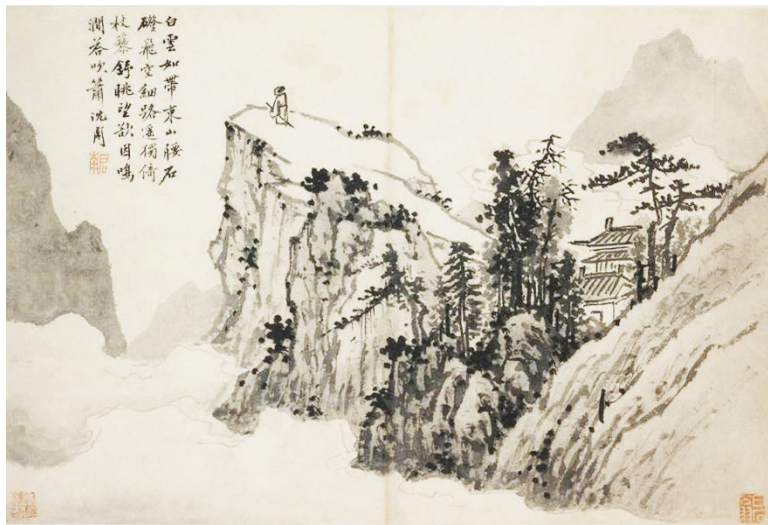
## 8 POET ON A MOUNTAIN TOP 7:25

QUADRO NUEVO

WITH IZABELLA EFFENBERG & PHILIPP SCHIEPEK:

IZABELLA EFFENBERG	GLAS HARP (STUDIO)
PHILIPP SCHIEPEK	GUITAR (STUDIO)
ANDREAS HINTERSEHER	ACCORDION (STUDIO)
D.D. LOWKA	BASS, UDU DRUM, PERCUSSION (STUDIO)
MULO FRANCEL	SOPRANO SAX (MOUNTAIN TOP), TENOR SAX (FORBIDDEN CITY), CHENG (STUDIO)

Rec. by René van der Voorden in Forbidden City Beijing / China 2013 and by Julie Fellmann on the Great Wall of China in April 2019  
Mixed by Andreas Hinterseher & Philipp Winter  
This song is dedicated to the art of blending poetry and painting by Shen Zhou (1427-1509).



»White clouds sash-like  
wrap mountain waists,  
Rock terrace flying into space,  
distant, a narrow path.  
Leaning on a bramble staff,  
far and free I gaze;  
To the warbling valley brook  
I reply with the cry of my flute.«

## 9 IKARUS' DREAM 6:33

QUADRO NUEVO WITH DANIEL NODEL & LUNA LOWKA:

DANIEL NODEL _____	VIOLIN
LUNA LOWKA _____	FLUTE
CHRIS GALL _____	PIANO, FRAME DRUM
ANDREAS HINTERSEHER ____	ACCORDION, VIBRANDONEON
D.D. LOWKA _____	BASS, PERCUSSION
WOLFGANG LOHMEIER ____	PERCUSSION
MULO FRANCEL _____	CLARINET

Rec. by Samuel Dalferth & Quadro Nuevo on Mount Kerkis in August 2015  
Mixed by Chris Gall. Photo by Mulo Francel.

*»Especially during the last few hundred meters of altitude, the trail became almost impossible to find. There were no markings at all and the sweat was running down our backs.*

*Kerkis is the highest peak of the East Aegean. Despite our heavy backpacks the 1434 meters seemed quite doable. After all, we grew up at the foot of the Alps! But unlike in our familiar mountain world at home, we started here at sea level. So at zero. We had not considered that. And what we had not considered either was the merciless August heat.*

*At breakfast we had still been amused by a sentence in the guidebook that warned against climbing the mountain: "From the gorges of the Kerkis many a person has not returned". Yes, we thought, they might have been Dutch or from Hamburg. But us smart fellows would manage the adventure in a few hours. At the beach, those in need of relaxation sunbathed and splashed in crystal clear waters. We, however, wanted to experience more on this beautiful island. Especially after our concert the day before at the Samos Young Artist Festival,*

*which nourished our collective self-confidence. Four hundred spectators from all countries cheered to our tangos in the beautiful amphitheater of Pythagorio. During the breaks between songs, cicadas chirped and a soothing evening breeze cooled our faces. At the subsequent feast of a dinner in a picturesque taverna in Chora, we asked everyone, "Have you been on Mount Kerkis?" - "No, we don't hike on the mountains here in Greece so much" or even "What is Kerkis?".*

*Oh well. That wasn't going to stop us. And we made it!*

*However, very late. At 7 p.m. we reached the top. The sun was preparing for its setting, a majestic celebration with all the power it disposes of. The scenery that it enlightened with its setting rays was grand and breathtaking. Like a three-dimensional stage set. Magnified a thousand times. The entire island could be seen in its wholeness from up here and lay at our feet.*

*He stood upon his castle's turret,  
He gazed out with delighted spirit  
O'er mastered Samos down below.  
"The whole of this to me is subject,"  
Began he to the King of Egypt,  
"That I am fortunate, avow."*

*Nowhere else can one understand the beginning of Schiller's ballad "The Ring of Polycrates" as poignantly as at this highest point.  
From here you can see across to the island of Ikaria and to the south to the archipelago of Fourni. Somewhere in between, according to the old legend, Icarus fell into the glittering sea on his flight to freedom.  
For minutes we stared, lost in thought, at the vast surface of the Ikario Pelagos, as the people here have called the Sea of Icarus since immemorial times.*

*Suddenly we became aware of the danger. The sun was descending and setting. Darkness is the natural enemy of the climber.  
Hurriedly, we tried to set up the microphones, unpacked hastily our instruments and tuned them. To make matters worse, our sound engineer Sam slipped while*

KERKIS [1.434 HM] Samos Island



*taking pictures, fell into a thorny plant, and by the time we had performed emergency surgery to remove all the thorns from his sensitive posterior, more precious minutes had passed. The rest of the sun contracted to a yellow-orange blotch of color, disintegrating and becoming one with the hazy horizon of the sea in the far west.*

*"Quick now," one of us admonished. Sensing that the long descent would be extremely risky. Strangely enough, it was now completely calm with no wind for a short time. For a moment, we came to rest in spite of everything. Sam pressed the button on the recorder. We played. A simple sinuous melody of the clarinet over archaic drummed rhythms. Accompanied by colorful multiple sounds of the accordion, in which dark red seemed to mix into deep blue. The way back was hard. Darkness. Black rocks and neighboring peaks stood out like giants against the moonless night sky. Several times we lost our orientation. Down there somewhere had to be the lively places of the coast. Far away the colorful hustle and bustle in the small streets of Pythagorio. Happy people who meet after a day at the beach under the sycamores of a village square to finish the evening together. Wine and conversation by the sea.*

*At two in the morning we arrived at the cars in the valley. Thanks to the experience of our accordionist, who, in his youth, worked as a mountain rescuer. We had used our mobile phones as flashlights for as long as we could. In their light we tried to trace back our steps. Several times we saw scorpions between the rocks hunting for prey at night. By now the batteries of our phones were all exhausted as were we in terms of strength. But filled and fulfilled with spectacular sceneries.*

*Only days later did we find the name of the melody. We did not search for it. It was simply there. It invented itself:*

#### *Icarus' Dream*

*A song dedicated to an ancient dream of mankind:  
the escape from one's own destiny.»*

SHIR KUH [4,055 HM] Iran



# 10 CHANT FROM THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL 2:20

## 11 DANCE OF STARS 6:31

QUADRO NUEVO WITH AIDIN TAVAKKOL & RAGEED WILLIAM:

AIDIN TAVAKKOL _____	VOCAL
RAGEED WILLIAM _____	DUDUK, NAY FLUTE
EVELYN HUBER _____	HARP, SANTUR
CHRIS GALL _____	PIANO
ANDREAS HINTERSEHER _____	ACCORDION
D.D. LOWKA _____	UDU DRUM, BASS
MULO FRANCEL _____	C-MELODY SAX, MANDOLA, COPPER TUBE CHIMES, STONE PERCUSSION

Rec. by Mulo Francel on Shir Kuh / Iran in March 2018  
Mixed by Philipp Winter. Photo by Ela Wallner

*»A fire burns within me – tonight. A light shines into my innermost – tonight.  
Up here I am! For only in your shine, dear stars, can I see everything clearly.  
For only with you can I share this secret – tonight.*

*It is love that lifts me to these heavens.  
I whisper to you, stars, the beautiful song of life.  
I report of the earth, the busy hustle and bustle, the thousandfold toil, the hundredfold desires, the tossed jugs and broken mugs, the passion that keeps me going, the love that sweeps me away – all the way up here;  
I report of the perpetual course of an earthly life, which I have left behind me – tonight.*

*I can now see you clearly before me, moon!  
And you, Pleiades, who for ages have proclaimed spring to the wandering children of the desert.*

*In the light of the seven stars I look for the traces of my love.  
You show me the direction. And a gentle breeze brushes my loins.«*

VULCANO [391 HM] Aeolian Islands

## 12 VULCANO 4:11

### MULO FRANCEL & FRIENDS:

PHILIPP STERZER	FLUTE, ALTO FLUTE, BASS FLUTE (STUDIO)
ROBERT KAINAR	DRUMS (STUDIO)
MULO FRANCEL	SOPRANO SAX (MOUNTAIN TOP) AND CLARINET, BASS CLARINET, CONTRABASS CLARINET (STUDIO)

Rec. by Andreas Brettschneider & Mulo Francel on Gran Cratere  
di Vulcano / Aeolian Islands / Italy (391 m) in October 2020  
Mixed by Stefan Gienger  
Photo by Mulo Francel

*»View from Vulcano towards Stromboli (back right in the picture)«*



ZUGSPITZE [2.962 HM] Germany  
MONTE CEVEDALE [3.769 HM] Italia

## 13 WITH OR WITHOUT THE GLACIER 7:38


QUADRO NUEVO WITH CHRIS GALL & TIM COLLINS:

ANDREAS HINTERSEHER	___	<b>BANDONEON</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
D.D. LOWKA	_____	<b>DRUMS</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
CHRIS GALL	_____	<b>KEYBOARD</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
TIM COLLINS	_____	<b>VIBRAPHONE</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)
MULO FRANCEL	_____	<b>TENOR SAX</b> (MOUNTAIN TOP)

Rec. by Alex Hubmann on Zugspitze / Germany (2.962 m) and  
Monte Cevedale / Italy (3.769 m) in October 2019  
Mixed by Chris Gall  
Photo by Mike Meyer

*»Ode to the dying glaciers,  
played on the Northern and Southern edge of the alps.«*





Produced by Mulo Francel

Many heartfelt thanks to all my companions on the mountains and in the studio. And many thanks to *Musikfonds e.V.* and *Music as a Bridge e.V.* for supporting this adventure.

All songs composed by Mulo Francel, except *Chant from the Mountain Trail* and *Dance of Stars* (persian traditional arranged by Mulo Francel) and *With or without the Glacier* composed by Chris Gall & Mulo Francel.

Mastered by Philipp Winter

Graphic Design by Olaf Becker

Cover photos by Mike Meyer, except  
back cover photo by René van der Voorden.

Booklet cover photo by René van der Voorden taken on Mount Catherine, Sinai.

Text supervised by Julie Fellmann & translated by Sabine Kazoglou

For more information to this album, videos & concert dates please visit

**W W W . M U L O F R A N C E L . D E**