

Your concert in Berlin „Waldbühne“ 2010-08-18

Berlin, 2010-08-05

Dear Mister Leonard Cohen,

maybe you remember me, quite likely not. I had the great honor of getting introduced to you by the Budde-Verlag after your Berlin-Concert in May of 1993. Probably there are so many, and me, I am proud to be one of these, who stand beside your stage waiting to get the chance to thank you for all the great songs that you made for heaven and men.

Let me cast you a light on what happened last week here in Neukölln, in the poor part of Berlin: It was the 21<sup>th</sup> birthday party of Max Prosa, a young and talented singer full of promise. Most of the guests were young as Max and musicians, too. They get along to play some songs 'till someone had the idea: "Hey, let's make a home-recording of Hallelujah as homage for Leonard Cohen! He will come next month to Berlin." There were an atheist, a Bavarian apostolic catholic, a Jewish boy from Israel, two blond Berlin girls (just kidding, one has darkened red hair) and me - half a Jew (my father was a holocaust survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau), currently I pretend to be an agnostic Buddhist. This remarkable bunch of Berlin musicians performed a peculiar backyard version of Hallelujah in German language. Someone said: "You should let Leonard Cohen know about it." So we hope you are curious to listen, you will find this one-shot-live-track in the attachment:

*Max Prosa* – vocal, guitar

*Philipp Thimm* - hammered dulcimer, organ

*Erez Frank* - percussion, bowed mandolin

*Josephine Jütte* - chimes

*Jana Groegler* - twanging glass

*Misha G. Schoeneberg* - room-recording, German lyrics

At that time when I get introduced to you I was a German songwriter of good reputation, I was intended for the transformation of all your songs into German language. We were working on a book with all of your published songs; there should be for every song: 1) the sheet of music, 2) the original lyrics, 3) a translation into German, 4) a in rhythm & rhyme, according to the original, lyrical transformation into German.

After all, the greatest German rock-poetry singer, Rio Reiser, should have sung a record of Leonard Cohen songs in German. Tragically Rio Reiser died early in 1996. After that blow of fate my work on your poetry reposed. But it was not forgotten. More than thirty-six songs were already done.

Meanwhile, I am a studied man now, a Southeast-Asian-scientist as well a master in German literature. I published some books, some scientific stuff and a big Asian-novel, too. But still I am writing poetry and songs. So I came back to my work on your songs. I noticed, that your friend, Christof Graf had translated your songs in 2002, it's a well-done translation, but his intention was very different from mine. My ambitious aim was to make out of every song of yours a in German language singable transformation, mine is a poetry work in rhythm and rhyme according to the original.

It is a notable thing that my work on your songs brings me back in touch to the young German music-scene. There's a new generation, which likes to sing your songs as well as their own in German language. They are alive to the fact that German was once the language of great poets, and they grew up with Dylan-Songs as well as yours, and now they discover how good your songs could sound in German language, too. They get excited about that. Maybe at the bottom of one's heart people like to understand heavenly poetry in their mother tongue.

For that and the following reasons I like to ask you: What do you think about to sing a verse of Hallelujah in the Berlin Arena "Waldbühne" in German language? It's a great area although it is build by the Nazis. If you sing some lines in German, it could be a ceremonial purification. Have a look to the attached sheets, if you like the idea, take any verse you want, you would make the whole crowd cry and of course, some people will be awfully happy to die ☺.

Beside that I need to ask you nicely, whether you could advise Sony-Music to grant the permission, that your songs are allowed to sing in German language with my transformation as formerly Rolf Budde agreed. By the way, Rolf Budde once mentioned, when the songs are done there's only one who could sing Leonard Cohen Songs in German language as Leonard Cohen would do: Leonard Cohen himself.

Yours sincerely

*Misha G. Schoeneberg*