

A Bird In The Hand Is Worth Two In The Bush

Lars Åkerlund / Jean-Louis Huhta / Zbigniew Karkowski

This double CD contains the final recordings by Polish electro-acoustic/noise legend Zbigniew Karkowski. Both discs contain a single 42-minute piece each. These recordings require a lot of patience, but they are rewarding. Both discs go from being near-silent to building up to strange, disturbing, piercing levels of noise, to gradually cutting off to a lulling buzz, and then building up to more swarming noises. If you're listening on headphones, or on a huge surround sound speaker system, your ears will be attacked, but in superb fidelity. This is a powerful, overwhelming, immersive audio experience. It's also likely to drive you crazy if you're not prepared for it.

<https://theanswerisinthebeat.net/2016/03/>

Zbigniew Karkowski's last recording, in Sweden, November 2013—a few weeks before his death—accompanied by musicians Jean-Louis Huhta and Lars Akerlund.

This record should be seen not so much as a tribute to Zbigniew Karkowski than as an ongoing concern to further his work and thinking as they were when he was alive, reacting, and questioning, uncompromisingly. Nevertheless, these are his final recordings, which he made—a homecoming of sorts—in Sweden, at EMS Studios in Stockholm, with his friends Jean-Louis Huhta and Lars Akerlund. Late November 2013. A reminiscence from the 1980s, the creation of the label Radium 226.05 by [Carl Michael von Hausswolff](#), their brotherhood intact. Places where he became what he was. The first recordings and the last ones—after having taken over the world. and from there, again, he decided to head out to sea, to the Amazon, taking control of the final hours of his destiny. And that will be the topic—if our own destiny allows it—of another adventure. For nothing stops and everything carries on under guises none of us could possibly have imagined.

Zbigniew Karkowski (1958-2013) was a Polish experimental musician and composer.

Jean-Louis Patrik Huhta (born 1965 in Gothenburg) is a Swedish musician, drummer, producer and DJ.

Lars Åkerlund is a Swedish sound artist and composer/performer of electronic as well as electroacoustic music.

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2 CD digipack
2 tracks (42'37 / 42'33)

Boomkat Product Review:

A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush contains the final recordings by pioneering electronic explorer Zbigniew Karkowski, made at Stockholm's EMS in 2013 alongside Jean-Louis Huhta (Dungeon Acid, The Skull Defekts) and Lars Akerlund .

Zbigniew Karkowski passed this mortal coil in Peru, December 2013, weeks after this collection's 2nd disc was recorded. Sub Rosa would like us to view this 2CD "not so much as a tribute... than as an ongoing concern to further his work and thinking as they were when he was alive, reacting, and questioning, uncompromisingly".

As they also state, it is "a homecoming of sorts", owing to the fact that he has close ties with the region, from studying composition, aesthetics of modern music, and computer music in Gothenburg's universities, as well as composing for the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and extensive work with C.M. von Hausswolff since the '80s.

Here, on the first disc's Serge Piece 22 April 2013, the trio put EMS' Serge Modular system thru its paces for 42 minutes of intense frequency massage, building from super low subs to a pensive, head-flossing flow before bursting at the seams with the kind of modular effluence and prickling highs that might make Russell Haswell blush.

Disc 2's Drone Piece 24th November 2013 is Karkowski's final composition. A signature example of his personal push for pure sonic intensity, yielding 42 minutes of skull-resonating bass tones (especially when heard on headphones) imperceptibly oscillating under the skin, in your nasal cavity, making the scalp sizzle.

<https://boomkat.com/products/a-bird-in-the-hand-is-worth-two-in-the-bush>