



'Uniting Music' is released 5 May on GOGO Music (Germany)

GUM DROPS

WE DROP IN ON GERMAN DEEP HOUSE MAESTRO RALF GUM, AS HE GETS SET TO RELEASE HIS LATEST LONG-PLAYER 'UNITING MUSIC', EASILY ONE OF THE BEST ALBUMS OF 2008 SO FAR.

With Germany being so famous for its minimal and techno scenes, how hard is it for you to push your sound?

I was aware of the fact that it would be a tough challenge to push the sound inside Germany, so I started to promote the GOGO label mainly outside in the beginning, with quite good results. I also realised that it seemed to be a bit harder for a German label to be accepted with a deep and soulful sound, simply as the scene tends to look mainly to the USA. To date, the consistent hard work has paid off

closely related to the house scene, were a little skeptical. After they heard the compositions I had in mind for them, they were delighted to join in and everyone is pleased with the way it came together.

Tell us more about GOGO Music, the label and radio show.

I established the label in 2001 to release my own productions, but also to develop artists like Raw Artistic Soul, Roberto De Carlo or Sugar Beat – acts whom I strongly believed in. The output of GOGO Music concentrates on timeless songs, instead of putting out a huge quantity of records following the latest ephemeral trend. Deep house is definitely the main influence on GOGO's music, but limiting the label to only this style seems the point, as I am open-minded to various soulful and danceable musical styles. Bit by bit, I expanded the activities and included the branch "GOGO Music Booking" (<http://www.b-king.org/>), to give a platform to the artists and to be represented by a company that shares the musical vision and taste. In addition, in 2003 the weekly GOGO Music radio show was launched, broadcasting on 25 stations around the globe.

The album is a joy to listen to, did you mix it together to enable the listener to join your journey?

The album was not a product of several separate singles and then mixed together, the whole album was created in one go as one composition. The music was made before I asked the vocalists to record the individual tracks within that composition of music. I decided to make the album that way because I think that people, especially the home listener, are not interested in listening to an endless beat intro or outro in each song. Also, I wanted to do

something different than the usual collection of 'club tools'. The whole concept of the album is reflected in the title 'Uniting Music'. I wanted to bring together my favourite vocalists in one musical journey.

What other plans do you have for 2008?

2008 should be a busy year as there are a lot of things in the pipeline. I will be releasing various singles from the album throughout the year including 'All This Love For You', featuring Diamondcancer and including remixes by Rocco, as a follow-up to 'Kissing Strangers'. This will be followed by 'If No Harm', with Rachel Claudio on vocals and with a remix contribution from The Jinks. Also, look out for the Wummi tune 'Brother Like No Other' and more. There will be new releases on GOGO Music from Roberto De Carlo and Raw Artistic Soul as well. I am working on brand new tunes already, which will feature vocalists I've worked with before as well as some new talent. I will also be touring with the album all over the world, in the first half of '08.

QUOTE

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and GOGO's music receives deserved attention inside and outside of Germany.

You've got quite a collection of great vocalists on the album, how hard was it for you to pull it all together and are you pleased with the outcome?

It was definitely no easy process and took more than a year to get the confirmation of all the vocalists I wanted to include on 'Uniting Music'. The few singers on the album with whom I worked with before e.g. Inaya Day, were interested from the beginning. Others like Beate S. Lech, who is not

