

Kebu

Sebastian “Kebu” Teir is an artist from Finland, who won the Schallwelle Award last year - the German prize for electronic music - as Best Artist 2017. Kebu makes melodic synthesizer music using analogue synthesizers only. His music is distinguished not only by a skillful treatment of analogue synthesis but also of an audience-captivating live performance – his YouTube channel has attracted over 40 million views and a lot of appraisal. Kebu’s approach is very DIY – he does almost everything himself, from composing to producing, artwork layout, web page design, as well as video recording and editing.

Although the original inspirations are obvious, Kebu wants to build a bridge with his music from the seventies and the eighties to present. In an interview he says “I’m trying to further develop the melodic synthesizer music that had its peak in the eighties but kind of died out and gave way to club-oriented electro.”

Kebu’s concerts are surrounded by warmth and joy, as well as a huge arsenal of analogue synths, which brings to mind the best solo synthesizer artists from the 1970's and 1980's. Swedish Gaffa.se said in a rave review of one of Kebu's gig that "Jarre's successor has arrived".

Kebu's debut album from 2012, *To Jupiter and Back*, was a tribute to the great synthesizer music that he grew up with. The album was well received – it went straight to Top 30 on the Finnish Album Chart and it was nominated for "Best International Album" in the German Schallwelle Music Awards. For his follow-up, *Perplexagon*, Kebu honed his craft and produced a two-sided album, which mixes influences from both 70's and 80's music as well as from modern electro in a distinct manner. The album was released in 2016 and debuted as number 6 on the Finnish Album Chart. The album also came on 3rd place as "Best International Album" in the German Schallwelle Music Awards.

In December 2016, Sebastian quit his day-time job as a senior scientist and project manager at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, where he had been working since 2008 on environmentally-friendly energy solutions, and started focusing on his music full-time.

While Kebu is best known among synthesizer enthusiasts, also others are beginning to notice his talents. In 2017, Kebu was commissioned by his birth town, Kristinestad, for doing a special composition celebrating



Finland's 100th birthday. So Kebu composed an 18-minute long work for synths, orchestral percussion, a soprano and a 100-person large choir. The composition is called "Kring havet" ("About the sea") and tells about nature, phenomena, thoughts and feelings that the sea has given rise to. The composition was premiered on the 6th of December 2017 at Kristinestad - on Finland's 100th birthday and released as an EP in April 2018.

Kebu was recently invited to the 8th edition of the Film Music Prague Festival, where he performed after Kyle Dixon & Michael Stein (composers of the soundtrack for Netflix' Stranger Things). He also participated in a concert dedicated to the film music of Ridley Scott, where he performed the music from the Blade Runner movie.

Following the release of "Perplexagon" Kebu has toured Europe and given over 70 concerts in twelve different countries. The concert in Oslo was recorded for a two-hour long live album (CD & DVD), which will be released by ZYX Music in May 2019.

Awards:

- German Schallwelle Music Awards 2017, winner of "Best artist 2017"
- German Schallwelle Music Awards 2016, 3rd place in the category for "Best international artist"
- German Schallwelle Music Awards 2016, 3rd place in the category for "Best international album"
- German Schallwelle Music Awards 2012, 7th place in the category for "Best international artist"
- German Schallwelle Music Awards 2012, 9th place in the category for "Best international album"
- Kulturfonden (The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland), 1-year art grant for doing music (22,000 euro). Granted in 2014, postponed to start in December 2016

Discography as Kebu:

- Kring havet - Meren ympärillä (2018), EP released on CD and digital (Secret Entertainment, ZYX Music distribution)
- Perplexagon (2016), album released on CD, vinyl and digital (Secret Entertainment, ZYX Music distribution)
- Deep Blue (2014), single released on CD and digital (Secret Entertainment)
- To Jupiter and Back (2012), album released on CD and digital (Secret Entertainment, ZYX Music distribution)

Links:

- Homepage: <http://www.kebu.fi>
- Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/kebunator>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kebunator>
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/4XNih4GTeMVeQmiXq3CqS6>