

# 1379. Abba-Medley

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

The radio station RPR1 from Koblenz has launched a book series by its editor REINER MEUTSCH - the following information can be found in the CD inlay:



Reiner Meutsch (born 1955) has made his passion, travelling, his profession. At the same time, more than 25 years ago he developed Europe's most listened radio travel programme "Mein Abenteuer" at the radio station RPR1, which he also presents every week. To this end, he commissioned MARK WHALE with the creation of corresponding international music. The result was a collection of 5 "My Adventure" CDs:



The Abba-Medley consists of three popular Abba titles "Fernando", "Dancing Queen" and "Thank You For The Music", which Mark Whale has mastered with his distinctive organ playing style:

**1. Fernando** is an ABBA ballad from 1976, originally written with Swedish lyrics for a solo album by Anni-Frid Lyngstad, who also took over the main vocals for the English ABBA version. The song was released as a single in March 1976 and reached number 1 in the charts in twelve countries, as well as the top ten in ten others. She has also been awarded a gold record in Germany, France, Great Britain, Australia and other countries. This makes Fernando one of the most successful singles in the group's discography.

**2. Dancing Queen** is also an ABBA song from 1976, the lead vocals were sung by Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Fältskog. The single reached number 1 in the charts in 16 countries worldwide and is one of the most successful hits of the group. With over six million copies, Dancing Queen became one of the best selling singles of the 1970s.

**3. Thank You for the Music** is an ABBA song that appeared on the fifth studio album of the group ABBA - The Album in 1977. Thank You for the Music was already performed in spring 1977 on ABBA's European-Australian tour in connection with the musical, but with a slightly different text than today's version. At the time of the performances there was no studio version. A first attempt to record the piece in the studio took place on June 2, 1977. However, this first version did not satisfy the musicians, which is why another attempt was made on July 21, 1977, which finally led to the final result. Final mixing in Nov.1977.

Disco-Beat (T=90/110)

The musical score is divided into two main sections: **Main 1** (Tempo T=90) and **Main 2** (Tempo T=110). The score is written for a 4/4 time signature and includes the following parts:

- Bells:** Features a melodic line in Main 1 and a more rhythmic pattern in Main 2.
- Strings:** Provides harmonic support with chords in both sections.
- Guitar:** Plays quarter-note chords in Main 1 and eighth-note chords in Main 2.
- Bass:** Features a walking bass line in Main 1 and a more active eighth-note line in Main 2.
- Snare:** Plays a marching-like pattern in Main 1 and a standard disco beat in Main 2.
- Drums:** Includes 'HH-sticked' (hi-hat) patterns and 'DSD' (Bass Drum) patterns.

**Programming instruction**

While in a sequencer game the pre-programmed tempo changes are automatically presented, in a style game this is only possible manually. So I suggest that you set the tempo 110 as the basic tempo of the style and then manually set the low tempo 90 at the beginning of the medley - after selecting the style. The 110 setting is then recalled "automatically" after the initial break with the "Synchro-Start" circuit in Main 2! In Main 1, this fast arpeggio-harp movement with horizontal string chord and quarter-guitar chords sounds. The bass phrase is typical for the title. As Advanced the march-like snare sounds to the "normal" disco beat. In Main 2 you can hear the main rhythm of the medley, which will be played in all parts from now on: 8telBeat with HH-sticked (semi-closed hihat) and eighth guitar. In addition, the short (staccato) quarter chords of the strings and a slightly syncopated keynote bash phrase. The bells loosen up the beat monotony a bit. The harp arpeggio and the marching snare fall silent.