

1489. Winnetou-Melodie

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

The **Winnetou melody** from the pen of German composer Martin Böttcher is the instrumental leitmotif of the Karl May films Winnetou 2nd part from 1964 and Winnetou 3rd part from 1965. After the Old Shatterhand melody, the title is the second most successful music title from the Karl May films of the 1960s.

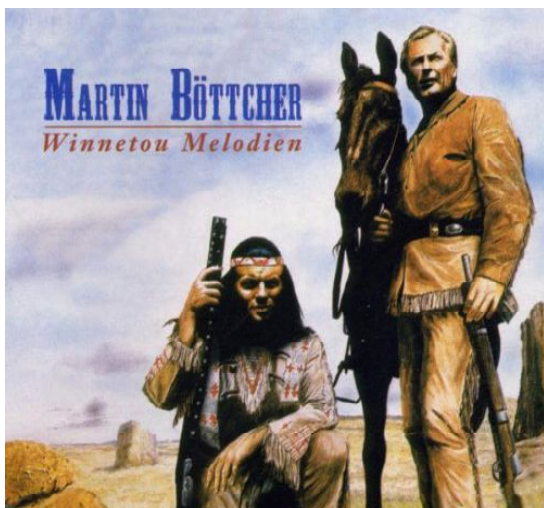
The title first appeared on a Polydor single in mono (the harmonica soloist was, as with the Old Shatterhand melody, the Hamburg musician Johnny Müller) and was re-released several times in stereo after the release of the LP "Unter Geiern / Winnetou II". Today the title belongs to the standard of many CD releases of music from Karl May films.

After its release, the title was also interpreted vocally by various artists, including Winnetou actor Pierre Brice under the title The Great Dream on the album "Feelings" and the German group Superboys. Their interpretation with the title WISH U WERE HERE - wünscht' Du wärest bei mir reached the first place in the ZDF-Hitparade in September 1998. In the Czech Republic, the cover version Vinetù by the group Tižkej Pokondr from the album "Vypuste Krakena" even went double platinum in March 2000.

Martin Böttcher (* 1927; † 2019) was a German film composer, conductor and arranger. Over a period of more than 60 years, he composed the music for more than 50 feature films and 300 television productions. Böttcher achieved great fame and chart success in the 1960s with his music for the Karl May film adaptations.



Our Winnetou story. Yes, it is interesting to know that the MWP titles are sometimes created on "special detours". Usually I look for a suitable title or take the most wanted title from a user list and then edit it. And although the "Winnetou-Melodie" is a Karl-May-Evergreen, it was not on the wish-list - because some user has already put his own hand on it and plays his own version of it. So happened here with the MWP user VIKTOR KÜSCHALL, who played a remarkably beautiful Winnetou version on the original model of the Martin-Böttcher-Orchestra himself - by ear - with his Wersi-organ. Thereby he used the strings sound as the main sound and in addition, of course, the harmonica, as in the original. But he also included the very distinctive secondary melody with solo trombone (Trombone) and even makes a nice Youtube video about it. Please watch it, because there you can see how he solved the "execution" of the secondary melody!



The German group Superboys with the vocal version WISH U WERE HERE reached the first place in the ZDF-Hitparade in 1998

Slow-Latinbeat, T=80

The musical score is arranged in a standard staff format. The top staff is for the Harmonica (Harm.) in treble clef. The second staff is for the Trombone in bass clef. The third staff is for Strings, labeled 'Advanced', in bass clef with a 3/8 time signature. The fourth staff is for the Guitar in bass clef. The fifth staff is for the Bass in bass clef. The sixth staff is for the Drums, labeled 'Crash Bongsos', in a 4/4 time signature. The Drums part includes a pattern of Bass Drum (BD) and Snare Drum (SD) hits. The score is divided into two main sections: Main 1 (A+B) and Main 2 (C+D). The tempo is marked as T=80.

Programming instruction

Whenever "bongos" appears in a rhythm designation, it's a "LATIN" kind of thing, and the choice of Latin percussion instruments playing along is almost endless. Personally, I always have the "real" drummer in mind, and I see the two or three small bongo drums in his drum setup on "Latin", which he uses skillfully - and sparingly - on a slow beat, as is the case here. The notes D1-C#1-E1 are the bongos, with the note C#1 being a "stopped" bongo, struck on the edge. Here, however, it's all a matter of taste. Feel free to come up with another selection! The beat part is represented by the two bass drum hits (BD) on 1 and 3 and the two snare hits (SD, on 3 and 4) as an after beat. I chose the note E0 for the snare here for the marching SD, because to me this suited the bongos more - but you can also choose the disco snare on D0, then this rhythm has a distinct Latin disco beat note.