

# In The Dutch Mountains

## Backgrounds of S. Radic

The Nits (until 1988: The Nits) are a pop band from Amsterdam. The Nits started out as a guitar-pop band in 1974, soon turned to the New Wave and have since cultivated an eccentric style that incorporates influences of minimal music, jazz and independent pop. The name ("Läuseeier, Nissen") is an allusion to another insect-related band name, that of the Beatles.

The band was founded in 1974 by Henk Hofstede, Michiel Peters, Alex Roelofs and Rob Kloet in Amsterdam. Soon they turned to the New Wave, recorded their first record in 1978 and decided to become professional musicians in 1980. In their early days, the music of the Nits could be compared to the new wave pop of the Talking Heads or the early XTC. Henk Hofstede and Michiel Peters distinguished themselves as independent songwriters, with Hofstede in particular sometimes tending to bizarre experiments. The band doesn't consider their debut *The Nits* as independent and unsuccessful; until today it hasn't been officially released on CD. With the following albums *Tent*, *New Flat* and *Work*, the Nits developed an individual style that also incorporates influences from Kraftwerk, the Beatles and the classical avant-garde. Hofstede found his personal voice; his timbre is often compared to John Lennon and the young Elvis Costello.

With the album *Omsk* and the entry of Robert Jan Stips they achieved a decisive breakthrough to an independent sound. The growing influence of the visual arts is striking, both in the lyrics and in the arrangement of some songs. Some songs (*Jardin d'Hiver*) are brought to a standstill and seem like sound sculptures. The sound palette was extended by the sophisticated sound design of Robert Jan Stips. Stips avoids conventional synthesizer routines in favour of impressionistic sound design of the music. This album also produced the biggest single success in the Netherlands with *Nescio*, which reached number 8 in the charts.



About the album. After the release of their meticulously compiled and produced predecessor album *Henk* (1986), which sounded somewhat lifeless at the end, the band decided to return to the basics and record this, their next album, live in their own rehearsal room to "reproduce the special atmosphere of a Nits concert". This makes the songs sound much more sparkling without getting rough or rash. Lyrically, singer Hofstede deepens his childhood memories and conjures up a vision of children's life in the Netherlands in the 1950s and 1960s that reflects the album cover with current historical child benefit stamps. Although they resemble the young versions of all four band members, they are real Dutch stamps from 1951.

*In the Dutch mountains* was the most successful album of the Nits so far and the first to be released in Great Britain. His lead single and title track was a reasonable hit on the European continent and is considered their trademark.



Slow-Beat (T=65)

The musical score is presented in a standard staff format with the following parts:

- Chor:** Treble clef, 4/4 time. Features a melodic line in the 'Adv.' section and a more complex, phrasing-oriented line in 'Main 2'.
- Flute:** Treble clef, 4/4 time. Mirrors the melodic lines of the choir and flute parts.
- Strings:** Bass clef, 4/4 time. Provides harmonic support with sustained chords and moving lines.
- Guitar:** Bass clef, 4/4 time. Features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes.
- Bass:** Bass clef, 4/4 time. Plays a steady, low-frequency line.
- Drums:** Drum set notation, 4/4 time. Includes a strong bass drum (DBD), a disco snare drum (DSD), and a small crash cymbal (small crash 2). Toms are also indicated.

The score is divided into three main sections: *Adv.*, *Main 1*, and *Main 2*. The tempo is marked as *Slow-Beat (T=65)*.

Programming instruction

If *Main 1* could somehow still be included as "standard" slow beat, *Main 2* is a purely title-related style part. The unusually slow tempo, whereby the drummer really plays with full power, is very rare, and is the component of this particular music wave at the end of the 80s, where one looked for constantly new ways in all music parts. The very title "In The Dutch Mountains" is a *Fars* - in the official video you can see a one-man rowing boat sailing through the shallow water - not a trace of the "mountains" in Holland... In the drum area everything is designed for "hard" beat: a strong DBD (disco bass drum) plays with a DSD (disco snare drum) and a "small crash 2" cymbal (because the HH is not enough) on top. The overemphasized bass is even written down "in octaves" - and programmed continuously in the midi file. In style you have to experiment if the normal bass is enough. The guitar is also fully tuned (means: full-stringed). The Shakuhachi flute gives a special sound - and the choir always sounds only advanced. The chord carpet plays phrasingly to it.