

## STEFFEN BASHO-JUNGHANS

Late Summer Morning CD – Strange Attractors

Steffen Basho-Junghans has been a prominent proponent of instrumental acoustic guitar music for over 30 years, yet few know him outside Germany, partially because he was long locked behind the Berlin

wall in East Germany. Basho-Junghans wanders territory investigated by like-minded artists such as Leo Kottke and Peter Lang, where American folk and blues combine with East Indian and Western classical concepts. Robbie Basho, in particular, was both inspiration and influence (Junghans hyphenated his last name as a tribute to his mentor), although Basho-Junghans wields an original and imaginative technique. Previously, Basho-Junghans has used repetition and raga sensibilities, flitted with free jazz, and showcased his lyrical, melodic side. *Late Summer Morning* subtly embodies many ideas and inclinations, most often incorporating a trance-folk perspective. The 22-minute title track feels like a mantra taken to epic proportions, where impressions gradually shift from glacial rhythms to psych-folk vibrations. The ethereal "In a Secret Garden" is reminiscent of William Ackerman, while "Sky Dreamer's Gold" is earthier, flirting with blues inflections. Basho-Junghans may never receive the same reverence as John Fahey, Sandy Bull or Loren Mazzacane Connors, but *Late Summer Morning* proves solo acoustic guitar music is not withering on the vine and can still be an area of discovery and exploration. (Doug Simpson)

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