



Ambitious Autodidact

Claus, alias Hafenratte, a tall grey haired man, was born in Hamburg/Germany in 1954. Since high school he was somehow addicted to psychedelic, electronic music. While others heard Beatles and Stones he went to concerts of Pink Floyd, Tangerine Dream and later Kraftwerk but did not miss the main stream after all. Unfortunately electronic instruments were unaffordable these days.

So his musical career started doing the Rock 'n' Roll in the formation Kool Cad & the Tailfins. There he was the "Mr. Baseman" in the background vocals. He also took responsibility for the sound equipment and on-stage mixing. Titles like "Ramalama Dingdong" and "Bermuda" were the biggest successes of this Band. They recorded 2 albums – of course good old vinyl – and a couple of singles. Later he worked as a sound & light engineer in different formations and clubs. Not being an instrumentalist at all made him earn a living outside music business.

The success of micro electronics, upcoming affordable equipment and the idea of finally being able to do his own stuff brought him back. He learned using digital audio workbenches, combined it with his knowledge from the past concerning mixing and sound, equipped a project studio and started a new approach, all digital this time.

But why the name "Hafenratte" - the German word for harbour rat? For Claus the image of rats is a positive one. They are these small grey animals that survive even when times get rough - a situation he knows very well by himself - and they are creatures of the dark but after all they are very social. The harbour of Hamburg is the area where Claus is living and working and dark and pounding like its sound is the music Hafenratte plays.

Meeting Carol alias Fledermaus, a skilled soprano, was something like a kick start for Hafenratte's productions. Since 2014 the duo does songs together which tell about the living and dying of dark lords, vampyres and the pleasure of pain, dominance and submission. It is independent German Rock, dark, mystic, a bit of gothic with a portion of "Krautrock". These are the elements the Hafenratte label stands for, located somewhere between Ramstein and Pink Floyd.

"Schwarze Engel" - Hafenratte's first song - tells about the guys on motorcycles who do not take "no" for an answer while ironic and pounding "Erwischt" gives you the right heartbeat. "Auf dem Felsen" shows what happens when you climb to high. There are also "Abgetaucht" and "Das Tier" in which he is supported by the clear voice of Carol.

With his dark sonorous voice and mystic sounds Hafenratte takes you to another world.

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