

Origin

Tolyqyn are three virtuosic musicians based in Berlin blending rock, jazz and grooves from around the world. The trio draws on a spectrum of genres like blues, psychedelic rock, West African kora music and techno to deliver an outstanding live show which has seen the band invited time and time again to stages across Berlin, England and Switzerland.

The three musicians were on three totally distinct musical journeys before their paths converged at jam night in Neukölln: the beating heart of Berlin's jazz scene and a rapidly changing migrant neighbourhood. But it was almost the band that didn't exist.

Roland Satterwhite, an in demand improvisational violinist, poet and singer was organising a jam night in Neukölln. One night, after witnessing a blues singer and guitarist performing at the collective, Roland scurried home, picked up a borrowed viola on the studio floor and turned it sideways. He began to pluck the Afro-Cuban and Caribbean inflected grooves he had fallen in love with when he was living in New York. It was there that he was musically adopted by a group of Latino musicians in Harlem, who completely altered his musical trajectory..

Free of the expectations of the violin, and plucking the grooves he loved, Roland began to write the songs which would later become a defining cornerstone of the Tolyqyn sound.

Searching for collaborators to expand the songs he had written, Roland invited Kuba Gudz, a young drummer on Berlin's jazz circuit, to open the jam night with him. Looking for an intuitive way to guide the development of his plucked viola songs, Roland insisted on performing the songs live with Kuba in public for the first time without any rehearsal.

The night before this spontaneous experiment, Roland walked past another jam night in Neukölln. Through the window of Pipi Royale, a smoky kneipe visited by musicians all over Berlin, Roland saw playing guitar. Tal, then only 18, was a jazz guitarist who recently relocated from Israel to Berlin. Recognising him the jam circuit, and impressed with Tal's natural and relaxed attitude towards the guitar, despite his clear prodigious talent, Tal was invited by Roland to come and play with Kuba and Roland the next night.

The journey so far

Since the first spontaneous encounter, the trio's natural momentum continues to lead to organic and exciting opportunities for the band. Tolyqyn has quickly gained a reputation as one of Berlin's most exciting live acts and have been invited to perform for audiences and festivals in Germany, Switzerland and in England.

They successfully raised funding for their debut album via Kickstarter and released the first single, Autobiography, from the album on 25 October 2019, together with an accompanying video self-produced and directed by the band.

Tolyqyn celebrated the release with a single release party with a sold out concert with 250 fans, at their favourite Neukölln venue, Artistania. The band was quickly snapped up by German booking agency, Soul-Fire Artists, who were at the show by lucky coincidence. The band is currently booking its album release tour across Europe and is set for a huge 2020.

The band's phonographic debut is a carefully crafted, ambitious production created with the help of master visual artists, mixing and mastering engineers and features some of the finest guest musicians that the trio could imagine to collaborate with.

The album will be released on April 24th 2020 on all streaming platforms, on CD and will also be available as a limited release double vinyl.