

Press release:

New book and album by award-winning Blues artist and book author Richard Koechli:

## «Music and Transcendence – Story of a Dream Team» incl. album «Transcendental Blues»

Swiss Blues Award winner Richard Koechli published two successful books in English last year (the world's first [biography of Chicago Blues legend Tampa Red](#) and a book about the [history of Gospel Blues](#)); now he released his latest multipack: a highly unusual book about music and transcendence (in a German and an English edition) and at the same time the psychedelic gospel blues concept-album «Transcendental Blues». It is accompanied by an 8-minute video clip produced in the USA by «Relaxing Blues Music», and there is also a single (radio edit) of the song «Love endures everything».



Persistent, playful, at times ironic to provocative, Richard Koechli searches for answers to how and why music exhilarates, touches, enchants, fires, liberates, calms, comforts, heals. What's going on in the brain and in the soul? How has all this influenced the history of humanity? Koechli meticulously examines and comments on explanations from musicology, natural science, psychology, music therapy, sociology, literature, philosophy, spirituality, metaphysics and Christian mysticism. He passionately quotes legendary stars from the Blues, Rock, Pop, Jazz and Classical worlds on how they experience the magic. Concerned, he also asks why the «drug» of music is often not enough for us, why we believe we can top the high with some substance or occult practice. Last but not least, Koechli ends the 200-page book adventure with a fascinating foray through the history of Psychedelic Rock, because that music from the hippie era taught him how to take off back then.

There is hardly a comparable book; the label «music-philosophical essay» might fit best. A relevant book in any case; for all who have to do with music. A stirring one, because it multiplies the respect for the mystery of sounds and transfers the love for music into infinity.



In the role of musician and singer-songwriter Richard Koechli combines it all with the very intimate album «Transcendental Blues». The centerpiece is a 30-minute composition with mystical lyrics, divided into 6 scenes (which are also on the album as individual songs). Originally, the record was created as a purely instrumental work; contrasting moods that blend into each other in a harmonically, melodically and rhythmically sophisticated way, partly underlaid with noises. Koechli: «In the end, I felt the need to sing anyway – I immersed myself in my spiritual home and referred to beloved biblical passages for a considerable part of the song lyrics. For example, the words about the nature of love (1 Corinthians 13), which are hard to beat for wisdom and beauty, and which I quote in the song 'Love Endures Everything' (the album's radio single).»

It is Koechli's own twelfth album overall, and it is his most elaborate studio production to date. The album sounds excellent and very dynamic, also thanks to the fantastic collaboration of his longtime live musicians Fausto Medici (drums) and Michael Dolmetsch (piano, Hammond, Mellotron) as well as mastering engineer Philippe Schneeberger (Lakeland Studio). [--> Album- & Book-Trailer \(Youtube\)](#)

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[--> Book-Cover \(print\)](#)   [--> Album-Cover \(print\)](#)   [--> Book-Cover \(web\)](#)   [--> Album-Cover \(web\)](#)

[--> Radio-Single «Love endures everything» \(mp3\)](#)   [--> Radio-Single «Love endures everything» \(WAV\)](#)

[--> Single «Night is not the end of the road» \(mp3\)](#)   [--> Single «Night is not the end of the road» \(WAV\)](#)

[--> The 8-minute video clip «Love endures everything» \(by Relaxing Blues Music, USA\)](#)

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