

= Tago Mago =

Tago Mago is the third album by the German krautrock band Can , and was originally released as a double LP in 1971 by United Artists . It was the band 's second studio album and the first to feature Kenji " Damo " Suzuki after their previous vocalist , Malcolm Mooney , quit the band in 1970 to return to the United States .

Tago Mago has been described as Can 's most extreme record in terms of sound and structure . The album has received much critical acclaim since its release and has been cited as an influence by various artists .

= = Recording and production = =

After Malcolm Mooney left Can in 1970 (according to some rumors , as a result of a nervous breakdown) , the remaining members were left without a vocalist . Bassist Holger Czukay happened to meet Kenji " Damo " Suzuki when the latter was busking outside a cafe in Munich . He introduced himself as a member of an experimental rock band and invited Suzuki to join them . That evening , Suzuki performed with the band at the " Blow Up club " and subsequently became a member of Can .

Tago Mago was recorded in 1971 by Czukay in Schloss Nörvenich , a castle near Cologne . The band was allowed to stay there for a year without paying any rent by the owner , an art collector named Mr. Vohwinkel .

This was the first of Can 's albums to be made from not only regularly recorded music , but combined " in @-@ between @-@ recordings " , where Czukay secretly recorded the musicians jamming while waiting for various technical problems to be resolved . Czukay would edit these long , disorganized jams into structured songs . According to Czukay , the album was named after Isla de Tagomago , an island off the east coast of Ibiza . Recording was completed in three months .

It was originally released as a double LP in 1971 by United Artists . In September 2004 , the album , along with the majority of Can 's discography , was remastered and released as a hybrid SACD . The rerelease includes a booklet with commentary on the album by Bobby Gillespie of Primal Scream and David Stubbs , as well as previously unreleased photos of the band .

In 2011 , for the 40th anniversary of its release , the 2004 remaster was released again with an extra disc of previously unreleased 1972 live performances .

= = Single = =

The side @-@ long track " Halleluwah " was shortened from 18 ½ to 3 ½ minutes for the B @-@ side of the single " Turtles Have Short Legs " , a novelty song recorded during the Tago Mago sessions and released by Liberty Records in 1971 . A different , 5 ½ -minute shortened version of " Halleluwah " would later appear on the compilation Cannibalism in 1978 while the single 's A @-@ side remained out @-@ of @-@ print until its inclusion on 1992 's Cannibalism 2 .

= = Music = =

Julian Cope wrote in Krautrock sampler that Tago Mago " sounds only like itself , like no @-@ one before or after " , and described the lyrics as delving " below into the Unconscious " . Tago Mago finds Can changing to a jazzier and more experimental sound than previous recordings , with longer instrumental interludes and fewer vocals ; this shift was caused by the dramatic difference between Suzuki and the band 's more dominant ex @-@ singer Mooney . On the album , Can took sonic inspiration from sources as diverse as jazz musicians such as Miles Davis and from electronic avant @-@ garde music . The album was also inspired by the occultist Aleister Crowley , which is reflected through the dark sound of the album as well as being named after Isla de Tagomago , an island which features in the Crowley legend . Czukay reflects that the album was " an attempt in achieving a mystery musical world from light to darkness and return " . The group has referred to the

album as their " magic record " . The tracks have been described as having an " air of mystery and forbidden secrets " . Tago Mago is divided into two LPs , the first of which is more conventional and structured and the second more experimental and free @-@ form .

" Paperhouse " , the opening track , is one of the shorter songs on the album . Allmusic critic Ned Raggett depicted the song as " beginning with a low @-@ key chime and beat , before amping up into a rumbling roll in the midsection , then calming down again before one last blast . " " Mushroom " is the following track , which Leone noted as having a darker sound than the previous song . " Oh Yeah " and " Halleluwah " contain the elements that have been referred to as Can 's " trademark " sound : " Damo Suzuki 's vocals , which shift from soft mumbles to aggressive outbursts without warning ; Jaki Liebezit 's manic drumming ; Holger Czukay 's production manipulations (e.g. the backwards vocals and opening sound effects on ' Oh Yeah ') . " Both " Oh Yeah " and " Halleluwah " use repetitive grooves .

The second LP features Can 's more avant @-@ garde efforts , with Roni Sarig , author of The Secret History of Rock calling it " as close as it ever got to avant @-@ garde noise music . " Featuring Holger Czukay 's tape and radio experiments , the tracks " Aumgn " and " Peking O " have led music critics to write that Tago Mago is Can 's " most extreme record in terms of sound and structure . " " Aumgn " features keyboardist Irmin Schmidt chanting rather than Suzuki 's vocals . The closing track , " Bring Me Coffee or Tea " , was described by Raggett as a " coda to a landmark record . "

= = Reception and influence = =

Tago Mago has been critically well received and is credited with pioneering various modern musical styles . Raggett called Tago Mago a " rarity of the early ' 70s , a double album without a wasted note " . In the book Kraftwerk : Man , Machine and Music , Pascal Bussy described the double LP as " hugely influential " . The album is listed in the book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die in which it stated , " Even after 30 years Tago Mago sounds refreshingly contemporary and gloriously extreme . " Many critics , particularly in the UK , were eager to praise the album , and by the end of 1971 Can played their first show in the UK .

Various artists have cited Tago Mago as an influence on their work . John Lydon of the Sex Pistols and Public Image Ltd. called it " stunning " in his biography , Rotten : No Irish , No Blacks , No Dogs . Bobby Gillespie of Jesus and Mary Chain and Primal Scream said " The music was like nothing I 'd ever heard before , not American , not rock & roll but mysterious and European . " Mark Hollis of Talk Talk called Tago Mago " an extremely important album " . Marc Bolan listed Suzuki 's freeform lyricism as an inspiration . Jonny Greenwood and Thom Yorke of Radiohead cite the album as an early influence .

There have been attempts by several artists to play cover versions of songs from Tago Mago . The Flaming Lips album In a Priest Driven Ambulance contains a song called " Take Meta Mars " , which was an attempt at covering the song " Mushroom " . However , the band members had only heard the song once and didn 't have a copy of it at the time , so the song is only similar @-@ sounding and not a proper cover . The Jesus and Mary Chain have covered the song more faithfully to the original ; it was performed live and included on the CD version of Barbed Wire Kisses . British band The Fall recorded a song indebted to the Tago Mago track " Oh Yeah " entitled " I Am Damo Suzuki " , named after the Can singer , on their seminal 1985 LP This Nation 's Saving Grace . New York band The Mooney Suzuki were named after Can vocalists Malcolm Mooney and Damo Suzuki .

Remix versions of several Tago Mago tracks by various artists are included on the album Sacrilege .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Holger Czukay , Michael Karoli , Jaki Liebezit , Irmin Schmidt and Damo Suzuki .

= = 40th Anniversary Edition = =

= = Personnel = =

Damo Suzuki ? vocals

Holger Czukay ? bass , engineering , editing

Michael Karoli ? guitar , violin

Jaki Liebezeit ? drums , double bass , piano

Irmin Schmidt ? keyboards , vocals on " Aumgn "

= = = Production = = =

U. Eichberger ? original artwork & design

Andreas Torkler ? design (2004 rerelease)