Europa and the Pirate Twins

" Europa and the Pirate Twins " is a song by English artist Thomas Dolby , featured on his 1982 album The Golden Age of Wireless . Written by Dolby , who produced it alongside Tim Friese @-@ Greene , the song was released as a single on 3 October 1981 .

The song , described as a " synth pop classic " , was inspired by the atmosphere of World War II , and features a guest appearance by XTC 's Andy Partridge . The single reached a peak position of 48 in the United Kingdom , Dolby 's home country , as well as charting in the United States and Canada .

Composition

Taken from the album The Golden Age of Wireless , " Europa and the Pirate Twins " was written by Thomas Dolby , who produced it in collaboration with Tim Friese @-@ Greene . The song opens with a " bluesy " harmonica solo , performed by Andy Partridge of the band XTC . The song makes use of electronic drums , and features a " high @-@ register " synthesiser line throughout . The song 's main musical hook is a " Bo Diddley beat " , a repetitive rhythm common in several musical genres .

Drowned in Sound 's Joseph Stannard has noted that " Europa and the Pirate Twins " is written with World War II as a strong influence , and that the song " emphasises the short distance between [Dolby 's] generation and the one which endured the last global conflict " . Dolby has described the song , along with the tone of the album , as reflecting " a sense of [a] relationship that 's going on as being overwhelmed by something on a grander level " , adding that " there 's a very strong wartime atmosphere to it " . The song was described as " a semi @-@ autobiographical romp " in the liner notes for Dolby 's 2009 greatest hits album The Singular Thomas Dolby , the release of which was overseen by the singer . " Europa and the Pirate Twins " received a " sequel " on Dolby 's 1992 album Astronauts & Heretics , in the song " Eastern Bloc " ; which has been described by Audio magazine as " appealingly faithful " to the original .

Release

" Europa and the Pirate Twins " was released as a single in the United Kingdom on 3 October , 1981 . It was Dolby 's first major label release , taken from his EMI @-@ released début album The Golden Age of Wireless . The song spent three weeks in the UK Singles Chart , reaching a peak position of 48 . The song first appeared in RPM magazine 's Canadian singles chart on 18 June , 1983 , debuting at number 50 . It eventually reached a peak position of 45 in that chart . The song debuted in the United States ' Billboard Hot 100 singles chart on 2 July 1983 , spending five weeks there and peaking at number 67 . It also reached a peak position of 37 in the Billboard Hot Mainstream Rock Tracks charts in 1982 .

The song 's release was accompanied by a music video , blending together several elements of footage . These included footage of the Ziegfeld Follies , Dolby interacting with a futuristic " telecomputer " , and black @-@ and @-@ white shots of a Dolby and a shrouded female figure by the coast . The video was written and directed by Dolby .

Reception

" Europa and the Pirate Twins " has been described by Peter Buckley , in his book The Rough Guide to Rock , as " showcas [ing] Dolby 's trademark combination of the charming and the gimmicky " . Writing for Allrovi , Stewart Mason described the song as " a hyperactive synth pop classic " , whose " every nook and cranny is stuffed with some sort of ear @-@ grabbing hook " . Mason added that the song " pack [s] a remarkable amount of detail into two short verses and a bridge " and " resolves with a soaring , bittersweet chorus " . Writing about the song 's music video , Dennis Shin of PopMatters described Dolby as being on the " leading edge " in the medium ,

highlighting the videos for " She Blinded Me with Science " and " Hyperactive ! " in addition to describing that for " Europa and the Pirate Twins " as being " one of his lesser @-@ known and unsung videos " .