

Something in the water

SONG-CRYSTALS

Introduction

There is no other element on earth that is so pervasive as water. Water envelops our globe with enormous oceans, covers the mountains with snow and ice, and flies around the planet in massive cloud formations. Water is the only element that manifests in three distinctive states: liquid, solid and gaseous. When we are born, our bodies consist of 90% water. When we die, all that remains is 50% – 60% of our total water content. Maybe it is because water is so omnipresent and commonplace that we have not taken the opportunity to analyze this element more in-depth. We take water for granted and assume it is an unchangeable constant.

One of the scientists who attributed water with extraordinary properties was Masaru Emoto. He researched the element of water with relentless curiosity and a singular open-mindedness. As a result, he was the first to photograph water crystalline formations under a microscope. The images which he produced not only opened our eyes to an entirely new world but bombarded our minds with thousands of new and unanswered questions. It suddenly became apparent just how susceptible water truly is. These and other remarkable images allowed us to observe how easily water reacts to words, music, and thoughts. It also revealed what havoc pollution or electric smog could wreak. These were revolutionary observations. And yet, many cultures have permanently endowed water with special significance. We baptize with water. Holy water is found in stone basins in churches or flowing freely in the Ganges. All indigenous peoples are sensitive to the effect the waters that their holy wells have. While simultaneously remaining extremely cautious to avoid the sinister fate that certain evil waters can harbor. Our modern society has distanced itself from these traditions. Masaru Emoto's images of crystalline formations have made this intuitive knowledge visible and tangible. They created new enigmas and polarized tremendously.

Much time has passed since Masaru Emoto made these first images. Technology has developed rapidly, and the world has become digitalized. And yet, our sense of curiosity remains. This point alone was a strong enough catalyst to unite two people, with entirely different backgrounds, for the sole purpose of working enthusiastically and near to obsession on this project. Each is affording this project with their unique personality. Rainer brings his pragmatism, enduring values, and a love for detail.

In contrast, Katalin imparts open-mindedness, naturalness, and a creative dynamic. These positive attributes made it possible for them to join forces to unite two extraordinary worlds, the world of music and the world of water. It all started with a simple question, "How can music be made visible?" that gave birth to an immensely complex project.

SONG-CRYSTALS does not make any scientific claims. The band regards itself as a form of purely empirical pioneering to learn more about water and music, with the overall objective being to entertain and inspire the observer. Rainer and Katalin highly value and respect the artists and the water and have strived to weigh all genres of music equally.

Technical Approach

Following Masuro Emoto's work, we also chose to use distilled water to create the recordings for this project. The reason is that it has the innate ability to reduce crystalline formations. To augment Emoto's original procedure, we added another process to produce zero-point water. Shortly before sonification, we exposed the distilled water to unique negative frequencies which inhibit crystalline formation. We placed a glass bottle filled with zero-point water in a soundproof box (to rule out other influences) and then recorded it over with music. Afterward, the water sample was removed, frozen, and observed under the microscope.

One of the reasons we decided to do this is that SONG-CRYSTALS ideals of aesthetic pleasure and inspiration and the use of color strongly affected the band. We used color filters selected according to the particular song's mood and message to enhance the lighting. This technique also enabled us to make the crystal's light refractive capabilities visible. For instance, when we used a yellow background lighting, some crystalline formations developed a vivid green or violet coloring and iridized exceptionally well, while others remained homogeneous. This specific property is more easily recognizable through our use of color filters while recording.

The same magnification was employed in 99% of the cases and only altered in a few singular cases. The same holds for the lighting and the light intensity. We took all possible measures to ensure the uniformity of these two components as well. However, one must remember that crystals are three-dimensional objects. We had to adjust the parameters mentioned above in specific cases to achieve an optimal image.

We made no modifications to lighting effects during postproduction, colors or lines remained unaltered, and contours were not changed, improved, added, or cut out. We tried to meticulously maintain the original image by only optimizing sharpness, saturation, and contrast.

In some cases, we were so astonished by the absolute perfection of a crystalline formation that we strongly contemplated not publishing specific images because they might be misconstrued as fakes or reworked photoshopped images. Out of respect for the artists, we decided to go forward with publication. It would have been incorrect to exclude a song from the collection just because it proved to crystallize a perfect image. Once more, we would like to stress that we employed the same procedure in recording every song with each artist and that we ultimately photographed what water made visible to our eyes.

Introduction: Crystal

by Rainer

After years of dedicating myself to water and, more specifically, water crystalline formations, I observed distinct regularities, recurring elements, and basic shapes crystalizing before my eyes. There are specific themes and music genres which do not permit crystallization. Crystalline formations hardly ever occur whenever addressing themes like murder, hate, or contempt. Quite to the contrary, the resulting image strongly resembles a misshapen creation. It doesn't matter if the content is musical, written, or verbal. The water always reacted the same way whenever confronted with the intention of such intense evil, and I could not photograph any harmonious crystal formations.

(Picture: Hitler-Foto, mellete a gyerekek képe, „ich hasse dich“ kristály)

In other cases, I could observe how the water tried to create landscapes, faces, animals, and symbols or to depict musical content. It is incredibly astonishing, and it is impossible to predict when and why something like that happens, but it happens repeatedly. Here are a few examples:

Foto Löwe/ Adler /Adidas

The crystalline formations also display specific tendencies. A sad song forms a closed shape without outstretched arms. If the theme deals with harmony, you can usually discover one or more indentations leading to the center of the crystal. When faced with true love, a heart form is often present in the center of the crystal, or sometimes the entire crystal forms a single heart.

(Picture: Kristály „Ich liebe dich“ gesprochen, Kristály Harmony für den Raum, egy szomorú kristály)

Interpretation

Through our personal observation, our intention is to illustrate one possible interpretation of the correlation between a crystalline formation and a song. It is a broad mixture of different variables which determines the crystalline shape. When we reflect on the various musical pieces, we must remember the many other influences that came into play. We must consider the lyrics, melody, instrumental application (i.e., acoustic vs. original version), the atmosphere (live recording in concert vs. studio recording), and of course, the artist himself. We invite you to accompany us on this fascinating journey! Join us in exploring the fantastic world of Song-Crystals and discover their effect on you. There is no right or wrong way of doing this. You will quickly notice that sometimes you will be led by your reason, other times by your emotions, and yet another time by intuition itself. All are acceptable and correct. There is no absolute truth. Water and crystalline water formations are a part of every one of us. These images may help us better understand why certain songs make us cry, which songs encourage us, and which songs make us reflect.

Let's break off together to explore and better appreciate this new and exciting world!