

JUNE 2005 No. 264

THE ESSENTIAL WORLDWIDE ROOTS MUSIC GUIDE £3.80

ROOTS

Local Music From Out There

NOTKER HOMBURGER

Nur In Konstanz Chaos CACD8222

Germany has a long history of regional music delivered in regional voices and idioms. The subtitle of this regional gem translates as 'Indigenous Music From The Western Lake Constance' from the German-Swiss border. The opening track with new lyrics from Notker Homburger is done in a jug band style, with the combined talents of Notty's Jug Serenaders. Called */ Gang So Gern In D'Dullegass*, it lifts the melody of *Avalon*. Relocating *Avalon* to a street in Konstanz's Niederburg district, the Tulengasse (the Dullegass of the song title), not only gives an example of how the language here departs from Standard German, it works as a musical witticism too.

Various combinations of musicians appear on the album. The guitar-double violin-voice arrangement of his own waltz, *Der 25. November*, is especially delicious while his solo voice and guitar version of *Lili Marleen* hits all the right spots. The top prize goes to *Z'Areneberg Am Bodensee*, a ribald account of the exiled Prinz Luis Napoleon (the future Napoleon III) who found sowing his oats wildly a far more desirable prospect than studying, hence the observation that half the local population has the same facial characteristics. Long live regional music.

Ken Hunt