



Not a follower of fashion, going against the current. While John Travolta was all the rage in Germany with "Saturday Night Fever", Duval surprised everyone with soft, harmonic melodies. Remarkable music, fascinating, thrilling, bewitchingly beautiful.

Hit producer Helmut Ringlemann, also likes it. He makes Duval commit himself for his film projects and so new doors within the music scene open. Duval is soon swamped with work. Directors fight for the "Dali of the musical paintings", and he becomes a regular composer for ZDF's highly successful "Derrick" and "Der Alte" (The old man). In addition to this, Duval produces TV specials for Martin Held, Manfred Krug, Lilli Palmer and Georg Thomalla, also writing music for TV series such as "Unsere schönsten Jahre" (Our most beautiful years) with Uschi Glas.

Duval's television work becomes a springboard into the record market. Many of his TV melodies become hits overnight, such as the "Todesengel" (Angel of Death) in 1979 – a soundtrack which music publishers have included in the "Instrumental Hits of the Century". Also his first song "Angel of mine" (1980) surpasses all expectations. He soars to the top of the "German Top 20" displacing great pop stars such as John Lennon or ABBA, for weeks on end. Even abroad, the song – taken from the gangster movie – sticks in everyone's mind.

Duval's special tone of voice fascinates worldwide, and gives the composer instant success as a singer, which is curious in its own way, because, in reality, Duval had only taken the microphone into his hand again out of necessity, and not very willingly.

"Director Alfred Vohrer and I were looking for a singer for the Derrick song, someone who could sing high notes and was known. We were unable to find anyone with these characteristics in the short time available, so the director said to me 'Why don't you sing a little? You sang before, with your sister, didn't you? Go on, give it a try!' After the first verse he immediately pressed the buttons and called out 'Yes! That's it!'"

Duval, who had left aside the singing part of his career, and did not really want to sing ever again, was launched, for the second time, as a singer. With "Angel of mine", he conquered the international pop music charts, forever writing off the old sentimental cliché. He now churned out hits like "Face To Face", "Cry For Our World", and a total of three bestselling LP's followed.

Several gold records are his reward. What Duval makes into music catches on, and goes beyond the gangster films. He convinces with the melodies for Michael Ende's "Neverending Story" and "Momo" – "a very sensitive, withdrawn, beautiful music" ("Die Zeit").

In addition to this, a large number of breathtaking musical advertising pieces come out, for example, for the Deutsche Bank, Porsche, Mercedes, and a five years' worldwide exclusive for BMW. The advertising spot for the Munich luxury car, Z1, musically arranged by Duval, is crowned with a prize at the New York artistic film festival.

"Duval's music has substantially supported the premium character of our cars – the fascination for a completely different style. His music has become a significant sign of recognition for BMW."

KARLHEINZ VORMBROCK
BMW BRAND-MEDIA DIRECTOR