

Bernd Rohrman
MEMO ABOUT MY BRIEF MUSICIANSHIP
stated 24-10-2024

I'll now chat a bit about that - long ago - time when I was a brave yet also naïve musician.

*****alpha*****

In 1950 my time at highschool started. My favourite areas were Geography, History, Latin and Greek - and not at all Music.

*****beta*****

I do not remember why I disliked the area Music - may be because that included singing, and singing I hated.

*****delta*****

A further impact was : I could not read music notes.



*****epsilon*****

Against my wishes, in 1951 I bought in Allendorf/Germany, where my high school education (Gymnasium) began, a recorder. In Germany they are called "Blockfloete". According to my memory it was a "soprano" recorder, in light colour. Of course I had to learn to play it - yet that's not easy if you can't read music notes!



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I played it within my school's music education, and had it until the year 1955.



*****gamma*****

In 1957, then 17 years old, meanwhile living in Bad Oeynhausen, a small, yet well-doing city in western Germany (near Bielefeld),



I eventually made up my mind to become a musician, and to play - clarinet! Clarinets are high-tech and complex instruments, and thus expensive.

Technically there are two main types of clarinets, called "Albert" and "Boehm". Lack of money meant that I had to buy an oldish used one. It was an Albert, and still fully functional. Here it is:



I had to work very very hard to learn to play it - which meant, at first I had, again, to learn to read music notes, urghhhh...

*****iota*****

And Bad Oeynhausen actually had its own Fire-Brigade ("Freiwillige Feuerwehr") for a long time.

*****kappa*****

I was fortunate to have an excellent clarinet teacher, so lucky me!



****lambda****

Indeed. And a further 'grand fate' - he was the leader of the "Oeynhausen Firebrigade Orchestra". Not the kind of band you may expect - it was a rather ordinary ensemble, basically a 'local' and sometimes marching band. Plain task: To enrich the culture of the firebrigade which had to fight fires, yet many other tasks as well, as here in 1950.



Excitingly, in my second year as musician, 1958, I became a member of this band! And I maintained my membership for five years, until 1963.

****mu-e****

Given my 'slim' competence, I was asked not to play the clarinet notes, rather the "trumpet-2" score.

Then, in 1959 or 1960, I bought a powerful soprano-saxophone which has a stronger sound.



To play it properly, especially as soloist, was certainly not an easy task for me!

****nu-e****

The "Oeynhausen Firebrigade Orchestra" played on all sorts of events, including events of social institutions. Each year in Christmas time, on December 24, we faced a special task: To play in front of the city's mayor and at various social facilities.

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Do do this, we were placed on the back of a special old truck. Usually it was so cold, we played with special gloves!



In case of festivities in nearby towns we had to march along the main street and to perform on public places.



Yes, I was only a plain member of the O.F.O., but soon I became a very happy one, enjoying this - for me unique - task.

****omícron****

Finally, here is a historic photo of the complete orchestra of Oeynhausens Fire-Brigade - and I believe, just believe, that the young guy with a clarinet (marked) is, is, is - - me!

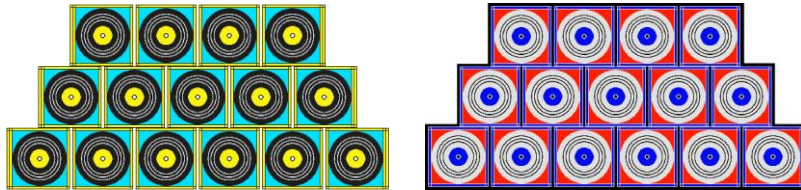


So - what then?

First phase, 1960-1980:

To buy lots and lots of music records, and trying seriously to cover the whole history of clarinet music which had become a big thing within jazz music from about 1910, biggest name: Benny Goodmann.

But also cover the immense status of the clarinet in classical music compositions, biggest name: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



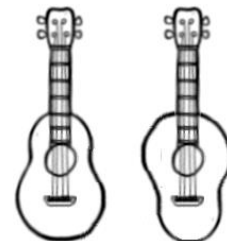
Originally what I could buy were vinyl records about 30 cm in size. Then I recorded hundreds of music presentations in radio stations on my tape recorder. Finally CD's became common, ending the 'vinyl time'.

To store my hundreds of records and CD's wasn't a plain task - I wanted that to be something like a music house!



Second phase - 2015:

Buying a special Ukulele with has a twisted body which shows kind of a human face.



Why is this Ukulele "twisted"? It actually violated the classical guitar design, the body is turned around (see demonstration). It seems to be a 'simple' guitar design, with only 4 strings - yet at that time, meaning, at my then age, it became very soon clear: That to play it orderly was way above my abilities. So I decided to treat it as a piece of "art", actually, "weird art".

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Third phase, 1997 to now:

To organize my own music events, named "My Music Events Engendered For Friends", MMEEFF. It happens yearly, and each time I select different musicians to play on it. So far, about every music style has been realized, including a-capella, asian, blues, calypso, classic, electronic, german, gospel, indian, jazz, pop, punk, rap, reggae, rock, samba, zydeco, and so on so on.....

****rho****

When pondering about the design of MMEEFF, I was fortunate that my best friend, Simon, was a musician himself!



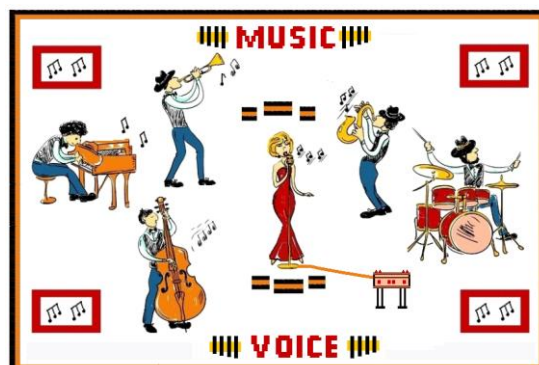
****sigma****

In order to find very good musicians for it, I visited countless gigs in Melbourne, and even many other towns, like Warrnambool, where I met a cute "City Band" steered by Maria!



****tau****

Actually MMEEFF is completely reported on my website - so here just a few pertinent pic's:



Here are two pic's from my invitations, 2006 and 2009.



And here four of my musician groups, in 2001, 2003, 2006, 2014.



****epsilon****

And now? Well, "My Music Events Engendered For Friends" will certainly go on, one spectacle every year in September.

