

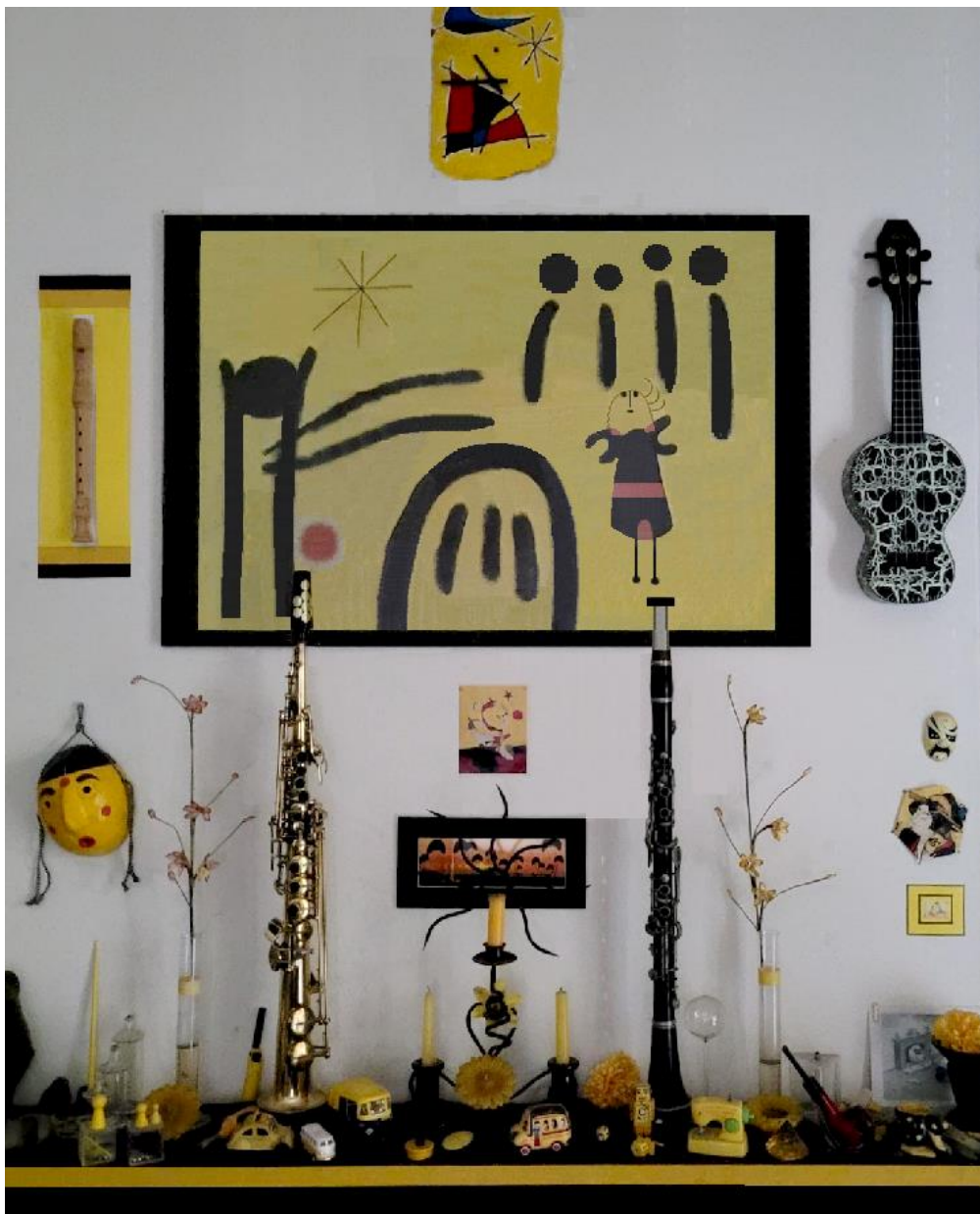


*Bernd Rohrman*

**BRIEF MEMO ABOUT MY MUSIC INSTRUMENTS**

08-02-2024

*I have four music instruments. They are all placed in my library, at its northern side, above the "open fire" place.*



*I'll now explain a bit what they are, or rather, were, when I still was a brave yet also naïve musician.*

## MY RECORDER

This I bought 1950 or 1951, in Allendorf/Germany, where my high school education (Gymnasium) started. In Germany they are called "Blockfloete". According to my memory it was a "soprano" recorder, in light colour.

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



Last year, that's 2023, I decided to buy a recorder as similar as possible to the one I had, here in Melbourne. This was a German Moeck Blockfloete, costing me almost 300 dollars. It is made from Ahorn wood. The sound is strong.

## MY CLARINET

In 1957, then 17 years old, I 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 clarinet, called "Albert" and "Boehm". Lack of money meant that I had to buy an oldish used one. It was an Albert, and fully functional. This happened in Bad Oeynhausen in Germany. Here it is:



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

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



After about a year, in 1958, I became the member of a band. Not the kind of band you may expect though - it was the very ordinary "Oeynhausen Firebrigade Orchestra", basically a marching band. I stayed to be a member for five years, until 1963.

And above, on the picture of my library, you see it, the black one, now about 100 years old - perhaps looking a bit frail, and not shining silvery anymore - yet still alive!

### MY SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

The "Oeynhausen Firebrigade Orchestra" played on all sorts of events, including Christmas visits of social institutions, and in case of festivities in towns we had to march along the main street and to perform on public places.



I felt overdemanding, musically, plus, I feared that my sound was not strong enough, ouch! Hard to believe what I did then - in 1959 or 1960 I bought a powerful soprano-saxophone! Soon I became a very happy member of the O.F.O., and was so until 1963. When all that ended, I sold my soprano-saxophone, because I had trouble to finance my University study.

To play a soprano-saxophone properly, especially as soloist, is not an easy task anyway!



In 2022 I somehow felt a bit sad that there wasn't any saxophone, which lets the clarinet looking kind of lonely. And I flipped out and bought a used yet almost new soprano-saxophone, here in Melbourne, technically like the one I had in 1960, just for fun (a "fun" which cost me 1000 dollars, the cheapest option I had). Above on the picture of my library, you see it, the 'golden' one!

### MY UKULELE

That's my 4th instrument - certainly a weird one! I noticed it in a music shop of Sale/Australia in 2022. The design appeared completely crooked to me, for example, the neck is on the wrong side of the body! Stress for the player? Easier to play when lying?



I bought it nevertheless - for just 90 dollars! Because: The instrument's body is created like a human face, plus, all the white markers reflect light. And it can indeed be played.

After bringing this so very cute ukulele home, I thought I should learn to play it, it's reasonably simple, and has only 4, not 6 strings. However, as I have to admit, I did not trust my pertinent ability. Gosh!

So I decided that it is not an instrument, it is a "piece of art", and as such deserves a place at the 'art wall' of my library. There you can see it now, on the right side.

That's it. I hope you were amused, or a bit puzzled, and not bored.



Bye!!

