

Musical Beginnings

Welcome to my website!

You are here on the website of a passionate country music fan with great sympathies for rock and pop songs.

In times when I was laughed at for my love of country music, I saw live concerts by Queen, The Who, Deep Purple, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Whitesnake, Status Quo, Uriah Heep, Foreigner, Electric Light Orchestra, Rory Gallagher and many others.

These were overwhelming experiences, but deep down, nothing beats good country music for me! So even at a young age, the alarm clock was set for 3:30 a.m. on the dot so that I wouldn't miss the half hour of country music on BFBS.



The Path To Becoming A Singer

My brother is a great guitarist and singer and was a member of an acoustic trio that rehearsed songs by "Peter, Paul & Mary", the "Seekers" and the "Searchers" in our basement. I listened to every rehearsal from the basement window and it was clear that I wanted to make music like that.



Like all four of their children, my parents enrolled me in the youth music school, where, in addition to elementary and instrumental lessons, I also had the opportunity to sing. I gained my first experience of polyphonic singing in the children's and youth choir.

No more vacation trips without polyphonic SingSang in the car!

A few years later, my brother and friends formed an Oldies Band called "Jack Beton & De Mörtels" and they wanted me to sing with them!

The dream begins!



My stage presence was shy and awkward, but over time, thanks to my wonderful bandmates, I blossomed into quite a passable lead and backing singer.

And then I found the little ad in the daily newspaper: "COUNTRY BAND WANTING A SINGER"

The audition with the "Outlaws of Lubbock" quickly made me realize that this was an opportunity to join a top country band and I fervently hoped that they would take me on.

The day I was about to put my hopes of joining my first country band to rest they gave me their "YES"

A country band... a COUNTRY band... I was completely over the moon!

I sang with the "Outlaws" for more than 6 years, but it was a big band whose opportunities to perform in the fall and winter were quite limited.

So I founded a second small "winter band" with the bass player at the time, which could play in small saloons and pubs outside of the big festival and open-air season.
That was the birth of CROSSFIRE .

The initially conceived "winter band" quickly became a well-booked live act and Crossfire's first dates overlapped with those of the Outlaws. A decision had to be made, and it was so difficult for me that it made me really sick.

But Crossfire became one of the most popular bands on the German country music scene. We toured at home and abroad for almost 25 years and played more than 1700 gigs, including in Canada, until we disbanded in 2014.



A very exciting time with many highs and some lows, with great experiences and adventures that I would never want to miss. One day I will immortalize this time in a book!

The Instruments

The most important of my instruments is my voice:

Mezzo-soprano with excursions into the depths of baritone to the heights of soprano.

Singing is my life, which is why I have been taking in-depth singing lessons for more than 25 years and pay attention to everything that is necessary for sustained singing.

I find it unusually easy to pick out choral parts, to place second and third parts and to place choirs. And I owe this talent to my highly musical parents, who encouraged and supported all of us children in this direction throughout our lives.

Then there's what you usually learn first as a child: the flute



I also had the opportunity to play the **Tambourine** and the **Jingle Bell**.

After 4 hours of lessons, I was amazed at what you can get out of these very simple percussion instruments!

I still love playing the jingle bells today, whereas the flute has been gathering dust in the cupboard.



While I had to enjoy **Violin** lessons at the age of 8, my brother was learning classical guitar and my sister piano. At my request, he taught me the first fingerings on the guitar and she taught me the basics on the piano: Etudes up and down...



My mother lent her music-loving daughter a museum-quality lute for life and I blossomed into a top entertainer. The youth songbook "Mundorgel" and my lute were my constant companions and no youth meeting, campfire or excursion was safe from me and my new favorite instrument. Today I play a pretty decent rhythm guitar and enough piano for home use.

A Keyboard for my own accompaniment, vocal exercises and my compositions is therefore indispensable at home. But unfortunately, strumming etudes wasn't enough for me to become a pianist.



Due to a lack of ambition, the Violin wasn't really my thing either, which I bitterly regret today! However, my violin lessons inspired me to take up the mandolin.

The Mandolin has the same tuning as the violin, but it's much more fun to play the **Mandolin**.



At some point, I also had ambitions to try my luck with the **Blues Harp**, and a musical textbook served me well.



Today I sing to selected, edited or self-created half-playbacks with my beloved 12-string Takamine.

One day it will look like Willie Nelson's, but then it gets a place of honor on my living room wall!

