Artist Vita

Benjamin Branzko

The most important pre-conditions for my musical career lie in my childhood. My father often took me to concerts. I remember seeing the irish songwriter Maurice Dickson at the Landhaus Walter in Hamburg. He created a stunning atmosphere with only his voice and an acoustic guitar and totally grabbed me. My mother used to read fairy-tales and stories to my brother and me and sung a lot of songs with us. I still can remember that sleepy-tune she used to sing when I was a little boy. That's what I grew up with, the sound of stories.

I love the city. I can sit for hours daydreaming in some café, watching people passing by on the pavement. But deep inside I'm a boy from the country. I have spent most of my childhood outside strolling around with my friends, building tree houses or camping near the village. That's what you do, when nothing's happening, you create your own adventures. When I became a teenager, there were parties on the lake shore. I sat at the campfire, played guitar and sung until the sun came up.

I play in bands since I am thirteen years old. We had occasional gigs at school or at parties where we played our first songs among covers by The Doors or Deep Purple. After school I enrolled at Hamburg University to study sociology, but soon dropped my studies to become a professional musician. Mostly I earned my money by playing guitar and sing in kindergartens. I also played all possible kinds of gigs and went busking. When I discovered the music of Django Reinhardt I got totally driven towards jazz. I noticed that most of the young musicians on the jazzscene were studiyng music, so I gave it a try and got an attendance at the Jazz Insitute in Osnabrück, Germany. There I got to know things about music that really widenend my horizon – and sometimes even blew my mind completely. I practiced a lot and really focused on training my technical skills. After I graduated I felt that despite all the inspiration I received through my studies, I had to find myself again as an artist. That's something you don't learn in any school or institution: Listening to the voice inside of you, following your inner wisdom.

Regarding my career until today I have already come a long way. I'm doing what I love. I play music and share it with people that I am blessed to work with, other artists as well as my students. That's awonderful thing about music: It's not important who you are, it all comes down to what you feel and how you express yourself, how you communicate with others.

Lyrics are very important to my music. I take my time working on my lyrics and put a lot of personal experiences into them. I write in english and german language alike, depending on what feels appropriate. It doesn't have to rhyme. Often, I write straight from the heart. Sometimes there is already musical a scetch with a topline and some chords. Making the words fit to a rhythm or melody that is already there is the hardest part. But it's worth the work. If the melody is good, you gotta serve it.

The fact that I am releasing my music with my own father now is a big deal for me. Doing family business can be quite a decision, but I trust him. I feel that he believes in what I do. He has a lot of experience in the music business, went through some tough times but always got up again to fight the next round. That's the spirit. For an artist it's really empowering to rely on somebody who is dealing with the business side of things.

„The things we miss are in the songs we know." These are words from my first single „Something Left Unsung". The Song is about a love that didn't blossom out. I think it's a human dilemma, that in some ways we never get to show our true potential, maybe because we don't trust in ourselves, because we fear to be disappointed.

It took me some time to find my way. Dropping your first release at the end of your thirties doesn't seem like a kickstart. But what the heck – now is my time. I know what I want as an artist. Sharing my music is my way of connecting to the world around me. So I put it out there and see, what it does.