

IG Blech



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IG Blech Berlin

Looking at the band's line-up - 3 trumpets, 4 trombones, tuba, a 10-piece woodwind section and percussion - one might easily believe IG Blech to be just another one of those numerous marching bands. However, first glance leads to a complete failure! The repertoire is more likely to give you some hints about the special blend and variety of styles and genres, that have made this ensemble an unmistakable one. Not easy to pigeonhole though! Listening to a set or two of IG Blech's worldwid mixture then will lead you to a simple but precise conclusion: HeavyMessingWorldMusic. A game on words that works well both in German and English (German "Messing" = Brass). Or to be a bit more modest: IG Blech - Berlin's first World Music Brass Band.

Ever since its inception back in 1975 the band has been searching for a new street band repertoire, tracing arrangements throughout Europe and the world, writing original material and presenting all this in a highly individual way, e.g. dressing up for special occasions and from time to time fitting musical aspects into specially created choreographies.

Many years before the term was communicated and the public became aware of World Music via prominent artists or movements such as Salif Keita, The Bulgarian Voices, the Klezmer Revival or the fashionable hype for Afro Cuban Traditions, IG Blech had already started playing its wide range of urban traditions from Brazilian Frevo to East-European Yiddish Freilachs to Afro-Cuban Salsa to 9/8 metre songs from the Balkans to Caribbean Calypsos and Turkish-Anatolian dance tunes. Meanwhile IG Blech has proved, that the blend of a brass band together with a male singer can sound extremely attractive, provided there is at least one microphone to pass on the funk. And this is for sure: James Brown, the godfather of soul, would feel delighted listening to IG Blech's re-invention of his "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag".



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Apart from this non-electric, unplugged, mobile Jazzy World Music-Crusade IG Blech has always strived for a meaningful presentation of their music. This policy includes actions such as anti-racist campaigns and ecologist's manifestations.

In 1988 IG Blech - on behalf of the Senat of Berlin (West) - promoted the 'Blechreiz '88-Festival', a 4-day event with as many as 300 participating musicians as part of the celebrations of the Berlin's 'Cultural City of Europe'-Festival. The great finale was presented at Berlin's fabulous venue Tempodrom. Recent years have seen the band play the 'Arrivée d'Airs Chauds' at Douarnenez (France) in 1988, 1989 and 1992, the European Cultural Capitals Glasgow (Scotland) in 1990 and Anvers (Belgium) in 1993 as well as many domestic and foreign festivals: Potsdamer Abkommen (Germany) in 1992, Warsaw (Poland) 1994, Beaucaire Festival (France) 1995, Newcastle (England) and Haarlem (the Netherlands) in 1996 and the Carnival de Nice (France) in February 1997. In 1997 and 1998 the IG Blech Brass Band also participated in the Fête de la Musique (June 21st) and took part in live broadcasts on the occasion of the anniversary of SFB4 Radio MultiKulti FM 106,8. In December 1998 the IG Blech Brass Band won the World Music Contest 'Musica Vitale' established by Berlin and Brandenburg. In 2001 they went on a short tour to perform in Rome (Italy) and played at some of Europe's major World Music Festivals. In the summer of 2006 the band toured Northern Italy and played at 'Interface'-Festival in Berlin. In 2007 they traveled to Great Britain to perform at the Durham International Brass Festival together with their close friends of The Tenth Avenue Band from New Castle upon Tine; in 2008 they toured Cuba.

They have collaborated with bands like A Bout de Souffle, Baseler Sicherheitsorchester, Bolschewistische Kurkapelle Schwarz-Rot, Dicke Luft Köln, Fanfare van de Eerste Liefdesnacht, Fanfare Zébaliz, Het Haarlems Straatorkest, Lauter Blech Bremen, Mona Lisa Klaxon, Schwarz-Rot Atemgold 09, Straatorkest de Tegenwind (Utrecht), The Brasshoppers, The Peace Artists (UK), The Tenth Avenue Band (New Castle upon Tyn), Toos Straatorkest (NL), Tuten und Blasen Hamburg, TubaMax...

The Musicians:

Silke Altmann (percussion), Carsten Belter (trombone), Detlef Coring (trumpet), Tobias Eiselen (tenorsax), Karin Gabbert (sopranosax), Karin Henkes (flute and percussion), Christian Hoffmeister (tenorsax), Sabine Jambon (baritonsax), Antje Jeckstädt (altsax), Renate Klaus (altsax), Andreas Köhler (trombone), Wieland Lehnert (trumpet), Henning Lieske (baritonsax), André Osterhaus (trumpet), Max Reimann (tuba), Harald Remé (clarinet), Albrecht Riermeier (percussion), Ruben Riermeier (percussion), Peter Rixen (trumpet), Julia Tornier (sopranosax), Ulrich Voget (trombone), Albert Zielbauer (trumpet).

<http://www.ig-blech.de>



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