

## **Biography:**

Born in Braunau/Inn, I grew up near Mining, where I was involved in local cultural events for many years. In the 1970s and 1980s I founded several house music ensembles, was conductor of the local traditional music band for several years, from 1972-1991 leader of the church choir in Mining and member of a male choir. All these activities influenced my professional career, and I look back with gratitude. My parents' house in Mining is our second home since I've lived in Braunau for decades.

After graduating from the Realgymnasium in Ried/Innkreis I was trained as a secondary school teacher in the subjects English and music education at the pedagogical college of the diocese of Linz.

From 1978-1982 I taught at the Ranshofen secondary school near Braunau and at the same time at the Music school in Altheim, which prompted me to do a teacher training course for zither with Prof. Peter Suitner at the Innsbruck Conservatory in 1982, which I completed in 1985 with distinction.

From 1977-2020 I taught the main subject zither at the MS Altheim and even accordion for a few years due to a lack of teachers.

My connection to playing the zither came about through my family. My father was a musician and an excellent zither player, so my affinity for playing the zither developed at an early age. After the early death of my father, I learned to play the zither from a friend who played the zither, because professional zither lessons like the ones we have now were not offered! But I was lucky, my "teacher" at the time taught me "nothing wrong"!

Due to the success as a zither teacher and my public relations, performances and studio work during the 1980s, I was invited in 1989 to set up a zither class at the former Bruckner Conservatory in Linz, which was challenging in many ways. Step by step the number of lessons was increased and the quality of the graduates contributed to the appreciation of the zither at what is now the Bruckner University. A concerto for zither and string orchestra by Fridolin Dallinger was premiered with the Orchestra Harmonices Mundi under Josef Sabaini, several TV and radio reports about our activities also proved to be very helpful.

In 2011 I was qualified as a University Prof. for Zither at the ABU and taught there until my retirement in February 2021. About 40 zither students completed their bachelor's and master's degrees during my teaching activity.

## **Other artistic and educational activities:**

- Jury work in Austria, Germany, Russia
- own zither seminars and training courses for zither in Upper Austria (1990-2000)

- Workshops/lectures/concerts in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, USA, Russia incl. Siberia, Baltic states
- Erasmus exchange programs in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Ireland
- since 1984 release of about 30 LPs and CDs and many music books for zither
- Publication of “Friedensmesse aus Österreich” for choir and zither, including numerous performances in St. Florian Monastery, Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral and Linz's Mariendom
- CD recordings with the Florian Boys' Choir and the Vienna Boys' Choir
- Cooperation with orchestras: Wiener Philharmoniker, Wiener Symphoniker, Orchestre National de France, Dresden Philharmonic, MRO Munich and others
- Teaching activity until 2020 at the PH of the Diocese of Linz
- Teaching and management of the Academy for zither and related stringed instruments
- Concert activities as a soloist and with my ensemble Salzburger Saitenklang