

„Blues Talks“

Blues as a World Language – Music between Memory, Resistance and Healing

Lecture-Concert with Gemma Abrié and Jan Hirte



Short description

Basic idea: The blues is one of the most important musical forms of expression of the modern age. It is more than a style of music. It is cultural memory, an expression of pain, dignity, humour, resistance and community.

Born out of African-American experiences of work, oppression, migration, exclusion, humor, longing and the will to survive, it became the basis of many musical genres of the 20th and 21st centuries: jazz, rock'n'roll, soul, funk, rhythm & blues, pop, hip-hop and modern

singer-songwriter music. It shows how a worldwide musical grammar could emerge from a few chords, simple song forms and a very direct emotional language. The focus is on the question: Why does the blues still touch people today — regardless of origin, age or previous musical knowledge?

The format combines lecture, live music and discussion.

Why this format?

First: **Blues as the origin of modern music** — jazz, rock, soul, funk, pop, hip-hop.

Second: **Blues as a social language** — pain is not repressed, but transformed.

Third: **Blues is a healer** — music as connection, expression and common space.

Format variants

Solo: Jan Hirte, guitar, lecture, live examples.

Duo: Jan Hirte and Gemma Abrié, guitar and voice, lecture, live examples

Workshop: with local musicians or students.

Series: several dates on blues, society, improvisation, voice, groove and global music.

Sample procedure 90 minutes

0-10 minutes: Musical introduction

10-20 minutes: Where does the blues come from?

20-35 minutes: Call & Response, Blue Notes, Groove

35-45 minutes: "Blues is a healer"

45-50 minutes: Musical example/duo performance

50-65 minutes: Blues in jazz, rock, soul, pop and hip-hop

65-75 minutes: Cultural translation: Blues in Europe

75-85 minutes: Conversation with the audience

85-90 minutes: Closing piece

Target groups

Goethe Institutes, universities, music academies, schools, cultural institutes, festivals, educational projects.

Short biographies

Gemma Abrié is a singer, musician and music teacher from Barcelona. In addition to her artistic work, she has extensive experience in teaching music theory, singing, improvisation and musical expression. She is active as a professional singer in various blues and jazz formations.

Jan Hirte has been on the road as a blues guitarist and singer on international stages for over 40 years. He has toured with renowned international blues artists, is a two-time winner of the German Record Critics' Prize and also works as a guitar teacher. His musical work combines many years of stage experience with the teaching of blues, improvisation and musical expression.

Together, Gemma Abrié and Jan Hirte combine voice, guitar, musical experience and mediation to create a lively lecture-concert format about the blues as a cultural language, form of expression and unifying force.

Technology

For solo: guitar, vocal microphone, small amplifier or DI, small PA.

For duo: two microphones, guitar/DI or amp, small PA, possibly monitor, beamer

Contact

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