Our Jazz Band: The Joy of Making Music

There are many things I could write about the DSW. There's the strange architecture of the main building, which one finds very special and futuristic at the beginning, but after a short time one gets accustomed to it and is comfortable with it. One could also write about the shaky dance classes in the cafeteria, in preparation for the spring ball or about the away games with the basketball team (although we are not the best, we are all the more motivated). Then there was Picture Day, when all the kids made themselves look their best but were still disappointed with the "one take" result.

All that was about twenty years ago, and many memories have now faded. But one thing that I do remember very fondly is the jazz band that I played in. The group was too modest to be considered a big band, but we did the best we could with the instruments we had: Piano, drums, trombone, trumpet, alto saxophone, clarinet, and French horn. Now and then, an electric bass helped out, and later there was even a second trumpet and a second alto sax, and the clarinetist was given a tenor sax.

With this combination, we played everything from standard jazz pieces to more modern arrangements as well as Christmas carols. And this we did at every summer party, every Christmas bazaar, and every Easter mass. There was almost no occasion.
where the DSW Jazz Band did not perform. We had so much fun during the rehearsals and performances that we didn’t even think that some people might not want to hear the Jazz Band anymore.

A real highlight was playing in joint performances (2004 & 2005) with a German jazz great: **Wolf Doldinger & Best Friends**. He was on tour with his band in the USA and made stopovers at the DSW. In the afternoon, we rehearsed with them, and in the evening they played a terrific gig, where we were allowed to accompany them on one piece.

This was all possible thanks to the great effort of our bandleaders, Thomas Bunz and Thomas Busch, and the commitment of the DSW. I am very grateful that the band was supported despite our unconventional instrumental line-up. For me, the DSW Jazz Band awakened the joy of making music together, so that 20 years later I still play in a big band.

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