

EARLY YEARS

My father had Frank Sinatra LPs and also the wonderful LP "Ella in Berlin". That was the first time I heard scat singing.

When I came to Munich I started singing with the University Choir and the Munich Motet Choir. My boyfriend at the time was an amateur double bass player in a Dixieland band and he asked if I could join the band. I knew all the songs anyway.

But I soon realized that jazz meant something different to me and I started my own band. It took off like a rocket. In the 1970s there was live music everywhere and sometimes we played five times a week.

Then I was invited to sing with the old drummer Freddie Brocksieper. In his band I started singing so-called head arrangements i.e. using spontaneous musical arrangements on stage. With pianists like Hans van der Sys, Rio Gregory and Otto Weiß I was able to really develop my repertoire. They were able to transpose all the songs into my key.