

# JAZZ MANOUCHE JOU<sup>®</sup>NAL

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC, THE MUSICIANS + THE CULTURE OF GYPSY JAZZ



*Image taken by Hinrich Wulff*

## Wazau Adler

Interview by Miranda Deutsch

***I ask German Sinti guitarist Wazau Adler to share a bit of his musical life with us...***

**Which region are you from?**

I was born in Karlsruhe, Germany. My family comes from Riga and Stettin - that was Germany at the time - today it is Poland. We are German Sinti.

**Is music a big part of your family life?**

Yes, this music is an important part in my life and I owe her a lot of friends like you. My maternal grandfather was musically gifted and played the harp. My uncle also played the harp. But no jazz or gypsy jazz.

**How important is it for you to maintain Sinti cultural traditions?**

It is very important to me to maintain the tradition. How do I do this? It's not that easy to answer. One way is, we honour the elderly. If an old man says to me "you won't go there", then i won't go there. An older person is very much appreciated by us younger people. But that is only a fraction of it. There are a great many different things. But it is certainly difficult for non-Sinti to understand all of it.

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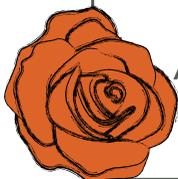
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**What was one of the best lessons you received about music?**

In the many years that I have been making music I have found that music is not made up of technology and music shouldn't be a sport.

**What is one of the biggest mistakes you see beginners and intermediate gypsy jazz guitarists make?**

I also find it difficult to answer this question. Every musician guitarist etc. has his own soul. I can only speak for myself. For me it is important to express heart and feelings in music. I don't like it when someone wants to ruin the other when the other is not so good. For me these are mistakes.

**Did you focus on rhythm guitar exclusively before you progressed to lead guitar? And if so, for how long?**

Yes, without chords and rhythms, it is not possible to play a solo. If you don't know what a chord is? What do you want to play then? You need a foundation in the beginning.

**What did your practice routine look like in your early years?**

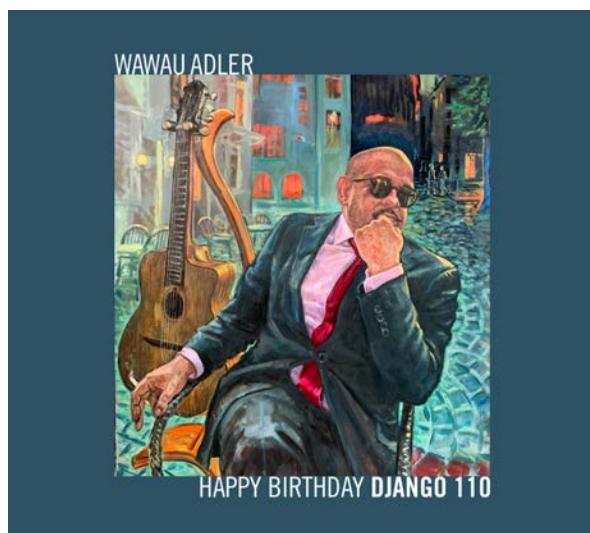
I practiced with LPs.

**What is your absolute favourite way to play music?**

Everything is fine for me. But Samois, Fontainebleau and Samoreau is my highlight every year. The atmosphere in Samoreau is just overwhelming. I love it.



*Image taken by Hinrich Wulff*



*Purchase 'Happy Birthday Django 110' through Amazon.com*

**Do you compose much music? And if so, how do the songs usually evolve?**

I've composed a lot of songs. I don't sit down to compose. It is like that with me. I have the guitar in hand and I play a chord and all of a sudden I remember something. That's how all of my songs came about. At some point I'll record a CD just with my songs. Here is a link to my latest composition.

[https://youtu.be/rf7pmCQ\\_Yrs](https://youtu.be/rf7pmCQ_Yrs) or search "I play with you. Wawau Adler Alexandre Cavaliere"  
- WawauMusic on YouTube

**What musical projects do you have going at the moment?**

I recorded my current album Happy Birthday Django 110 in 2020, and the Corona phase hit me and all other musicians in the world hard. Only now will I go back to my concerts with the personnel of the album.

*To find out more about Wawau Adler visit [wawau-adler.com](http://wawau-adler.com)*

