

JAZZ MANOUCHE JOU[®]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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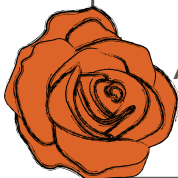
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What was one of the best lessons you received about music?

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?

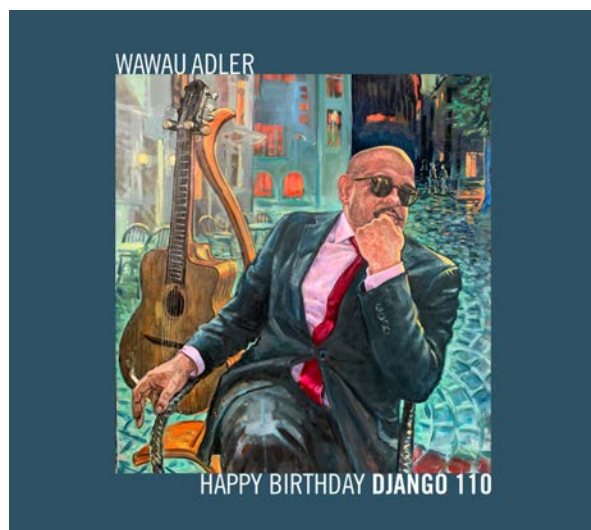
I practiced with LPs.

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



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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 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

