

## *The special thing...*

Musicians usually form a band. This band consists of musicians of just one family. The *"fiddle folk family"* - that are: Andreas, Bettina, Felix, Simon and Stephan Klingner. There are 40 years of music and experience between the youngest band member Felix, and the singing father of folk, Andreas.



## *The music*

The band offers you hand made life music on acoustic instruments which is presented in a refreshingly and humorous fashion. Our repertoire ranges from popular German dances and folk songs to ballads, and has taken its musical influence from the green isle of Ireland as well as various other places from all over. That the violins are a major part in this matter almost goes without saying, and that is also one of the reasons for the band's name, *"fiddle folk family"*.

## *Band members*

Andreas: *guitars, vocals*

In the family band Andreas is the one who plays the guitar, sings and leads the audience through the program.

Bettina: *violin, percussions*

Bettina is responsible for the musical career of all the Klingner children. As she is a Phd graduate she has got the organisational skills needed to keep this band together.

Stephan: *violin, vocals, mandolin, banjo, cajon*

Stephan is a computer scientist and multitalented musical missionary. He enjoys being the ever so critical scrooge of the family, so that nobody gets too big headed!

Simon: *double bass, vocals*

Simon started way back with learning the violin, which he soon outgrew as an instrument and switched to the double bass to match his bodily size.

Felix: *flutes, vocals, shawm, violin, guitar*

Felix is the youngest family member. He might still be small but hopes to grow a lot in future, in size as well as in musical competence.

## *How everything began...*

The early years

Without the folkband "Tonkrug" there probably wouldn't be a "fiddle folk family" today. The co-founders of fiddle folk – Bettina und Andreas Klingner – were active members of Tonkrug ever since the band existed (since 1976!). But it properly started with the folk music in 1983. Popular songs were "Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott" und "Florian Geyer", which were sung in 4 or more harmonies. Regular radio broadcasts in the studio "Nalepastraße" in Berlin and the production of two LP's with musical contributions were the definite highlights from back then. The band was also present at various radio and tv productions ("Auf Schusters Rappen", "Landpartie", "Mit Brummtopf, Bass und Fiedel"). Tours were made in the 80's to the Czech Republic and to the "Folkfestival of the North" ("Folklorefest der Nordländer") to Archangelsk, Russia. Now the next generation of Tonkrug are actively taking an interest in the musical development of the band and added quirky tunes and classy violin sounds from Ireland and America. This is how the "fiddle folk family" was born. The family band is touring Saxony, the pubs and bars of Leipzig since 2003, and is regularly at the folk festivals in Rudolstadt, and other towns of Germany.

## *Press reviews*

...with jovial folksongs and cheerful traditional dances, atmospheric Scottish, as well as furious Texan tunes, convinced the family quintet from Saxony its audience, whose parents are one of the co founders of the famous East German folk band "Tonkrug". The show lasted approximately 100 minutes, which the Klingners performed without a single break and managed to enthuse its audience in such a manner, that there was no way the band would leave the stage without an encore. Old school master Schütz would have had his fun at this impressive spectacle...

*[translated]*

*Mitteldeutsche Zeitung , November 2005;*

...almost 1000 artists from more than 32 different countries from four continents played instruments, sang and danced for and with 65000 Folk- and Worldmusic-Fans from the hole world. Records could be heard nearly everywhere, i.e. at the concerts of the legendary Chieftains from Ireland, Carlos Núñez from Galicia... On board from Leipzig: junior-player Felix with the "fiddle folk family".

*[translated]*

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