

# Pasadena Roof Orchestra



ROOTS  
OF SWING  
OF SWING



RHYTHM IS  
OUR BUSINESS!  
OUR BUSINESS!



**Pasadena  
Roof  
Orchestra**



*In the past, the orchestra's kind of music provided a boost in the background to some calamitous times, pre and post war.*

Today, not only is the orchestra bringing its music to young audiences all over the world, it is introducing new generations of young musicians to the music. The reputation of the orchestra is as legendary in its own right, as the bands from the 1920's and 1930's that inspired it.

## SWING THAT MUSIC!

For over thirty years the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, based in the UK, has delighted audiences all over the world with its mix of swing and hot dance music. Swing is much more than a musical genre, it personifies a lust for life, with its infectious beat. Its roots lie in the pre war dance bands, and the roaring twenties which inspired the later big swing bands. In contrast to many other musical genres swing has never really gone out of fashion over the decades, particularly in recent years. The Pasadena Roof Orchestra has played an important role in this resurgence of popularity.



Concert sold-out: Happy those fans who were able to get hold of a ticket for the concert of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra at Berlin, Koepenick, during the 12th „Köpenicker Blues & Jazzfestival“.

40 recorded vinyl LPs, singles, CDs, and DVDs containing over 300 titles have been released since 1974. The timeless sound of the orchestra has led to ever more recordings. In Japan the orchestra's first five vinyl albums have recently been rereleased in a CD format.



# FIRST CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

When it comes to authentic swing music the orchestra has no equal. The orchestra performs year-round with a line up of eleven excellent jazz musicians who have perfected their craft and studied jazz at the top conservatories. Many years of working together with top class arrangements, result in the ensemble sound for which the orchestra is renowned. The show is presented in a way that not only showcases this talent, but adds some wit and humour.



Duncan Galloway is the band-leader and vocalist and is also responsible for the musical direction. With a background in theatre and music, Duncan has been part of the orchestra for over ten years.

## DISCOVERY IN THE ATTIC

The orchestra was founded in 1969 by the master baker John Arthy, a long time devotee of the 1920's and 30's dance band music. In an old attic, the bass and sousaphone player discovered more than 1000 forgotten arrangements of swing and dance tunes from the 1920's to the 1940's (for more details see History p. 10). In autumn 1974 the first album was released and at the beginning of 1975 presented to the world music market at MIDEM in Cannes. The orchestra's first tour followed.



*In 1993, following successful concerts around the globe, the first tour of the USA was completed.*

75 days from Seattle down to Los Angeles, across Arizona, Texas, Chicago, New York, Florida, and perhaps most notably, the Ambassador Theatre in Pasadena. Another 6 week tour across the USA followed in 2001.

You name it, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and across Europe from the Royal Festival Hall London to MIDEM in Cannes, Musikhalle Hamburg, Prinzregententheater in Munich or the Montreux Jazz Festival – all over the world, the orchestra has won praise for its entertaining band show.





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# SWING, CHARM & TAILS

The Pasadena Roof Orchestra have charmed people around the world with swing and hot dance music for more than 30 years. They possess a great talent for music and entertainment alongside a lot of soul and humour. The orchestra was named after the song "Home In Pasadena" and plays virtuoso interpretations of original arrangements of the 20's and 30's. To this day, they have played an important part in the growing popularity of this music. Many albums and many years of touring means that the orchestra have played in all sorts of places, all over the world, from famous concert halls to smoky clubs, before royalty and star names.

But to begin at the beginning...

## BIRTH OF A CULT

We go back to the year 1969 - year of the birth of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, one of the most authentic, and stylistically reliable swing and dance orchestras of (post) modern times. As a great musical career is beginning, the Beatles are soon to split up. In general 1969 is quite a history charged year: Neil Armstrong becomes the first human to set foot on the moon, 250000 Americans demonstrate in Washington against the Vietnam war, and in soccer, a certain Pele is scoring goal number 1000 of his club career. Meanwhile in Manchester a man named John Arthy makes a significant discovery.

In 1969, John Arthy a professional baker discovers more than 1000 original arrangements for swing and dance titles under decades of layers of dust. Inspired and enthusiastic, he forms the Pasadena Roof Orchestra with musician friends and takes on the role of bandleader.



In an attic in Manchester, under decades of layers of dust, the passionate musician John Arthy discovers more than 1000 original arrangements for swing and dance titles from the height of a bygone era. Amongst them titles like "Puttin' On The Ritz", "Minnie The Moocher", or, he can hardly believe it, his favourite song "Home In Pasadena".

Inspired and enthusiastic, Arthy, a lover of dance and band music of the 20's and 30's and himself playing bass and sounaphone, forms the Pasadena Roof Orchestra with musician friends. He also takes on the role of bandleader.

# ... HOW EVERYTHING STARTED

The first rehearsal takes place on November 3rd, 1969.



The first concert at „The Brewery Tap“ in Barking on April 26th, 1970.



The first LP 1974



The first Business Card



Duncan Galloway and the orchestra in Dublin 2007, sold-out for 2 days.



There are changes in repertoire, but only in so far as it is continually growing. Today the musicians can make use of about 200 arrangements, most of them originating from the heyday of the roaring twenties, amongst them timeless classics such as „Puttin’ On The Ritz“, „Tiger Rag“, „Georgia On My Mind“ and „Singing In The Rain“.

IN 1975, IN CLUBS SUCH AS „ONKEL PÖ’S CARNEGIE HALL“ IN HAMBURG, THEIR RECEPTION WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS COMPARED TO THE BEATLES.

## BECOMING ALBUM STARS

In the year 1974, the Pasadena Roof Orchestra has long become a sought-after entertainment and dance orchestra in Britain. A jazz fan in the advertisement industry is listening to a concert of the band. David Curtis is a friend of John Arthy’s brother. He is so enthusiastic that he immediately starts making plans with John regarding the international marketing of the orchestra. A worldwide musical career begins.

From the outset John Arthy and his musicians had become renowned as an excellent live orchestra. In 1974 the first of many albums is released, and the reputation of the British band becomes such that it can expand its concert radius. The following year the entertainers honour Germany with a visit for the first time, and set the foundation for a close friendship between the Pasadena Roof Orchestra and the Germans, lasting up to this day.

### ACTING IN CONCERT

Over the years the Pasadena Roof Orchestra has seen some changes of musicians in its ranks but has always kept to the authentic style. The musical and entertaining performance of each bandmember always stays first class. Many musicians aspire to play with the orchestra if only temporarily, but only the very best become part of it. After John „Pazz“ Parry, Robin Merrill and James Langton, Duncan Galloway assumes the role of singer, compère, dancer and entertainer.



Behind the microphone, the band comprises of top musicians, for John Arthy it was clear that only the best musicians would make up the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. John Sutton on drums, Michael Holmes on piano or the trumpeter Enrico Tomasso, son of the famous Ernie Tomasso. To point out individual musicians is often misleading because The Pasadena Roof Orchestra has always been the sum of its parts, eleven musicians with a love of the genre being perfectly in tune, or to use an expression from pop music, playing together incredibly “tight”.

After John „Pazz“ Parry (here at Onkel Pö’s Carnegie Hall in 1975), Robin Merrill and James Langton, Duncan Galloway assumes the role of singer, compère, dancer and entertainer.

# RHYTHM IS OUR BUSINESS

Today, in contrast to the first years, there is hardly a great hall or great theatre in the world that hasn't been put into good spirits by some hot dance music and toe tapping tunes from the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. In 1975, in clubs such as "Onkel Pö's Carnegie Hall" in Hamburg, their reception was such that it was compared to the Beatles. There followed, in the same year, a highly acclaimed concert at the Montreux Jazz Festival. Only six years later the band was able to headline great British venues like the London Palladium, and to fill a location like the Royal Festival Hall up to "sold-out".



## THE GLORIOUS 80'S

In the 80's the band cements its reputation as a sought-after guest in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. There are no bounds to the enthusiasm at its performances of every kind, whether at a ball, a festival or concert hall. With perfectly fitting tails and wing collars, and suitably fitting musical arrangements, the Pasadena Roof Orchestra always provides not merely toe tapping tunes, but a genuine reason to beat the blues, simply uplifting!



BBC London TV show with singer Duncan Galloway in 1989.

From the Hamburg Musikhalle to the City Hall in rural Balingen, and Kornhaus Ulm up to the Palace Grounds in Karlsruhe, Germany is at the musicians patent leathered feet. It is perhaps a reflection of style and panache in contrast to a lot of the music of the decade.

## PASADENA GOES POP

In the new millennium the band enjoys great and above all, increasingly prominent success. Pop star Bryan Ferry, for example, takes five orchestra members with him on his "As Time Goes By" tour in 2000. In 2005 there follows the accolade from pop nobility. The Pasadena Roof Orchestra provides superlative accompaniment for Robbie Williams at the gala of producer Guy Chambers.

## AT THE MOVIES

The popularity of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra generated at the outset many radio and television appearances across Europe and often in Germany. It has also widened its media presence by recording music for movie soundtracks, among them classics such as "Just A Gigolo" in 1980, featuring David Bowie and Marlene Dietrich (her last on screen appearance) or the international movie success "Comedian Harmonists" by Joseph Vismaier in 1997.



### ROBBIE WILLIAMS

ROBBIE WILLIAMS SHOWED HIMSELF CONVINCED OF THE ORCHESTRA'S EXCELLENT SOUND. IN 2005 THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA PROVIDED SUPERLATIVE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE SINGER AT THE GALA OF PRODUCER GUY CHAMBERS.

### THE QUEEN

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTING ON THE MUSICAL TASTE OF THE ROYALS, WROTE OF "HRH THE QUEEN NOT BEING DISPLEASED IF SOME PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA TUNES WERE TO BE HEARD FLOATING PAST HER WINDOW." WELL, OF COURSE.

### BRYAN FERRY

ON HIS "AS TIME GOES BY" TOUR 2000 BRYAN FERRY HAD FIVE OF THE MUSICIANS OF THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA IN HIS BAND.

The logo for the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. The words "Pasadena", "Roof", and "Orchestra" are stacked vertically in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "Orchestra" is partially enclosed by a white, horizontal oval shape that has a slight shadow effect, making it appear to sit on top of the text.

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