

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH



## A life for the music

### Contents:

- S. 1 Biography
- S. 3 Awards
- S. 4 Success in figures
- S. 5 Discography

### Biography of a Legend

Last received his training as a cadet at the Military Music Schools in Frankfurt am Main and Bückeberg. In 1946, at the age of 17 when he was still called Hans Last, he was asked to join Hans-Guenther Oesterreich's Radio Bremen Dance Orchestra as a double-bass player, along with his brothers Werner and Robert, and he played in the *Last-Becker Ensemble*. His brother Werner then launched his own career under the pseudonym of Kai Warner, and his brother Robert Last was the first percussionist of the *James-Last-Band*. In 1955, James Last joined the Radio Orchestra of the Northern German radio station in Hamburg. In the early 1950s, he won several "Jazz Polls" as a jazz double bass player.

In 1964, he was offered his own record deal with Polydor. This was the starting point of his instrumental music recordings with his orchestra *James Last & His Orchestra*, a big band with strings and choir added. Some of the music he composes himself and some of it he rearranges. His repertoire extends from swing to pop, but also includes folk songs and classical music. His 1965 album "Non Stop Dancing" marked the start of a unique career which made him one of the most successful musical artists in the world.

Over the course of his career he has received numerous awards such as the "Country Music Award", the "Platin Stimmgabel" and "Echo" for his life's work and even including the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande (Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany).

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

Following the completion of his European tour “James Last – Around the World at 80 Years” on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 2009, Universal Music Entertainment honoured him with a “Lifetime Award” for over 80 million sound recordings sold.

His hometown of Bremen, Germany, awarded him the “Senatsmedaille für Kunst und Wissenschaft” (Senate Medal for Art and Science) in 2009 and appointed him as Honorary Senator by the University of the Arts in Bremen that same year. James Last’s most recent distinctions came on 24 May 2012 when he was presented in Berlin with GEMA’s German Music Author Award in recognition of his life’s work and on 8 April 2013 when he received a Golden Order of Merit for services rendered to the State of Vienna.

Especially in the 1970s James Last was celebrated as the “party king”. He created medleys by tying together brief renditions of popular songs with his characteristic dance beat. This party music had an audience ranging from rock music aficionados to traditional dance music lovers.

He also had many guest performers, among them Wencke Myhre, Freddy Quinn, Richard Clayderman, René Kollo, Helmut Zacharias, Edward Simoni, Fettes Brot and others. For Elvis Presley he composed the song “Fool”, which the King of Rock’n’Roll included on his first RCA record. On the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the CD “They call me Hansi” was released in co-operation with RZA, Jan Delay, Herbert Grönemeyer, Tom Jones, Hayley Westenra, Luciano Pavarotti, Xavier Naidoo, Nina Hagen and Till Brönner.

Among his most successful compositions are “Games That Lovers Play” and “Happy Luxemburg”, but also the themes of German television series like “Der Landarzt” (The Country Doctor) or “Das Traumschiff” (The Dream Ship) and of the successful German music chart show “ZDF-Hitparade” by Dieter Thomas Heck. He also penned the soundtracks for German films like “The Captain” (1971) featuring Heinz Rühman, as well as for “Morning’s at Seven” (1968) and “At the Height of the Moon”, two films based on the successful novels by Eric Malpass. For the series “Star Parade” with Rainer Holbe, broadcast on the second public German TV channel ZDF from 1968 to 1980, he not only composed the theme, but regularly appeared in the shows with his orchestra. His song “The Lonely Shepherd” was performed by the famous pan flute virtuoso Gheorghe Zamfir in 1977 and attained cult status 25 years later when it featured in the soundtrack to Quentin Tarantino’s film “Kill Bill: Vol. 1”.

2

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

Waltraud, his wife of 42 years, passed away in 1997. As he himself said, what helped him overcome his grief were his faith, his music and his second wife Christine. Today, James Last and Christine live in Florida and Hamburg.

James Last has given numerous tours on all continents. Since his first live tour in 1968 he has given approximately 2,500 concerts.

By 2013 he had performed 88 concerts in London's venerable Royal Albert Hall alone. Concerts 89 and 90 are on the programme for 2015! That could just possibly be a record-breaking number because James Last is the only non-British musician who has played this legendary hall so frequently.

"Music is my World" – the great European arena tour of 2011 bore the title of James Last's personal motto in life. With his 2013 tour entitled **ONE MORE TIME**, this Grand Seigneur of good cheer once again confirmed how timeless, strong and present he and his music are.

James Last celebrated his 85th birthday in 2014 and announced that he would be going back on tour again in 2015. "NON-STOP MUSIC" becomes his farewell tour.

James Last dies at the age of 86, on June, 9th in Florida in the circle of his family following short, severe illness.

3

---

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

## JAMES LAST - Awards

- 1950 - 1952 Best jazz bass player of the year (German Jazzpoll)
- 1969 MIDEM trophy, Cannes, for 1 million "Non Stop Dancing" records sold
- 1969 German Record Award ("Deutscher Schallplattenpreis") from "Fono Forum" for his new arrangement of "The Threepenny Opera" by Bertholt Brecht
- 1969 - 1971 Favourite orchestra of the year (German Musikpoll --forerunner of the "Echo")
- 1969 / 1997 "Goldene Europa" from Europawelle Saar
- 1971 "Goldenes Grammophon", Munich
- 1971 "Silbermöwe" from Hamburger Abendblatt
- 1971 "RPM Gold Leaf Awards" (Canada) for "Super Non Stop Dancing" and for "James Does His Thing"
- 1971 "Golden Award", Record World, for "Top German Orchestra"
- 1971 "Country Music Award" (ASCAO) for "When The Snow Is On The Roses"
- 1971 "ASCAP Award" (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) for Elvis Presley´s recording of "Fool"
- 1974 "Ehrenlöwe" TV award from Radio Luxemburg
- 1975 "Goldene Westfalahalle"
- 1975 "Goldener Notenschlüssel" of the German music publisher Sikorski
- 1976 "Star Of The Year" trophy from English trade publications Music Week and Billboard London
- 1977 "Robert Stolz-Preis" from the Robert Stolz Foundation
- 1978 "The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany" awarded by Federal President Walter Scheel
- 1979 "Die goldene Kamera" from magazine HörZu
- 1980 Cashbox Award for "The Seduction" as the best instrumental production of the year
- Special award for 52 records on the British chart
- 1991 "Goldene Stimmgabel" from ZDF
- 1994 "Goldene Eins"
- 1994 "Echo" in the category "Lifetime Award"
- 2000 "Platin Stimmgabel" from ZDF

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- 2009 “Senatsmedaille für Kunst und Wissenschaft” (Senate Medal for Art and Science)” from the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (presented on 15 April)
- 2009 Appointed Honorary Senator by the University of the Arts / Bremen (29 May)
- 2009 “Lifetime Award” from Universal for 80 million sound recordings sold
- 2012 GEMA’s 2012 German Music Author Award in recognition of his life’s work
- 2013 Golden Order of Merit for services rendered to the State of Vienna (8 April)
- 2014 “Hamburger des Jahres 2014” in the category “Lifetime Award” by Hamburg 1 (8 December)

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

## JAMES LAST in figures

- 17 platinum records
- 208 gold records
- 6 gold music cassettes
- 11 silver records
- Over 80 million sound recordings sold
- 93% of all Germans know James Last
- His music is heard in more than 150 countries around the world
  - First record deal in 1964 (Polydor)
  - First LP in 1965: "Non Stop Dancing '65"  
the name JAMES LAST is born!
  - First tour in 1968
- First public TV appearance on 14 March 1968, in "Starparade" on Germany's ZDF television station
- 1978 The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany
  - Around 2,500 live concerts, among them:
  - 90 concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in London
- With over 150,000 tickets sold, the 1999 tour was the most successful tour production of the year

6

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

## JAMES LAST – discography

- Die gab's nur einmal (1963)
- Die gab's nur einmal – Folge 2 (1964)
- Non Stop Dancing '65 (produced in 1964, released 1965)
- Hammond á gogo (1965)
- Non Stop Dancing '66 (1965)
- Beat In Sweet (1965)
- Ännchen von Tharau bittet zum Tanz (1966)
- Trumpet á gogo (1966)
- Hammond á gogo Vol. 2 (1966)
- Instrumentals Forever (1966)
- Classics Up To Date (1966)
- Non Stop Dancing '66/II (1966)
- Christmas Dancing (1966)
- Sax á gogo (1967)
- Non Stop Dancing '67 (1967)
- That's Life (1967)
- Games That Lovers Play (1967)
- Non Stop Dancing '67/2 (1967)
- Trumpet á gogo Vol. 2 (1967)
- James Last Presents George Walker (1967)
- Piano á gogo (1968)
- Guitar á gogo (1968)
- Humba Humba á gogo (1968)
- Non Stop Dancing '68 (1968)
- Freddy Live (1968) (live concert with Freddy Quinn)
- Trumpet á gogo 3 (1968)
- Non Stop Dancing 7 (1968)
- Rock Around With Me! (1968)
- Käpt'n James bittet zum Tanz (1968)
- Sekai Wa Futari No Tameni (1968) (only in Japan)
- Die Dreigroschenoper (1968) – new recording (3-LP box)
- Non Stop Dancing 8 (1969)
- Hammond á gogo 3 (1969)
- Op klompen (1969)

7

---

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- Ännchen von Tharau bittet zum Tanz 2 (1969)
- Hair (1969)
- Non Stop Dancing 9 (1969)
- Wenn süß das Mondlicht auf den Hügeln schläft (1969) (Soundtrack of the film "At the Height of the Moon")
- Happy Lehár (1969)
- Non Stop Evergreens (1969)
- Classics Up To Date Vol. 2 (1969)
- Onders moeders paraplu (1969)
- Golden Non Stop Dancing 10 (1970) (anniversary edition as an LP box)
- Around The World (1970) (3-LP box)
- Beachparty (1970)
- America Album (1970) (promotional release – not officially published – NO cover)
- With Compliments (1970)
- Non Stop Dancing 11 (1970)
- Käpt'n James bittet zum Tanz – Part 2 (1971)
- In Scandinavia (1971)
- Happyning (1971)
- Non Stop Dancing 12 (1971)
- Last Of Old England (1971)
- Beachparty 2 (1971)
- Non Stop Dancing 1972 (1971) (Non Stop Dancing 13)
- Polka Party (1971)
- In Concert (1971)
- Voodoo Party (1971)
- Wenn die Elisabeth mit ... James Last (1972)
- Non Stop Dancing 1972/2 (1972)
- Love Must Be The Reason (1972)
- Beachparty 3 (1972)
- Russland zwischen Tag und Nacht (1972)
- Polka Party II (1972)
- Non Stop Dancing 1973 (1972)
- Classics (1973)
- Sing mit (1973)



# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- Happy Hammond (1973)
- Non Stop Dancing 1973/2 (1973)
- Beachparty 4 (1973)
- Weihnachten & James Last (1973) Käpt'n James auf allen Meeren (1973)
- Non Stop Dancing 1974 (1973)
- Sing mit 2 (1973)
- In Wien beim Wein (1974)
- James Last Live (1974) (2-LP album)
- Non Stop Dancing 1974/2 (1974)
- Beachparty 5 (1974)
- Polka Party 3 (1974)
- Violins In Love (1974)
- Classics Up To Date 3 (1974)
- Sing mit 3 (1975)
- Non Stop Dancing 20 (2-LP album, anniversary edition)(1975, new recording of "Non Stop Dancing '65")
- In The Mood For Trumpets (1975)
- Well Kept Secret (1975)
- Tulpen uit Amsterdam (1975)
- Rock Me Gently (1975) (only in England and Canada)
- Beachparty 6 (1975)
- Non Stop Dancing 1976 (1975)
- Stars im Zeichen eines guten Sterns (1975) (several medleys with James Last)
- Sing mit (1976)
- Freut Euch des Lebens (1976)
- Happy Summer Night (1976)
- Non Stop Dancing 1976/2 (1976)
- Happy Marching (1976)
- Classics Up To Date 4 (1976)
- Non Stop Dancing 1977 (1976)
- Sing mit 5 (1976)
- James Last spielt Robert Stolz (1977)
- Non Stop Dancing 1977/2 (1977)
- Western Party And Square Dance (1977)
- Russland-Erinnerungen (1977)

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- Sing mit – von Hamburg bis Mexico (1977)
- Non Stop Dancing 78 – Part 25 (1978)
- Live In London (1978)
- World Hits (1978)
- Classics Up To Date 5 (1978)
- New Non Stop Dancing '79 (1978)
- Copacabana – Happy Dancing (1979)
- James Last And The Rolling Trinity (1979)
- Non Stop Hansi (1979) (2-LP album on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, not for sale)
- Hereinspaziert zur Polka Party (1979)
- Paintings (1979) (only in Japan)
- Ein festliches Konzert zur Weihnachtszeit (1979)
- The Non Stop Dancing Sound Of The 80s (1979)
- Sing mit 7 – Die Party für das ganze Jahr (1980)
- Last the whole night long (1980)
- Romantische Träume (1980)
- Seduction (1980)
- Caribbean Nights (1980)
- Non Stop Dancing '81 (1980)
- Rosen aus dem Süden (1980)
- Die schönsten Melodien der letzten 100 Jahre (1980) special edition on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the KARSTADT department store)
- Sing mit 8 ... und ab geht die Feuerwehr! (1981)
- Ännchen von Tharau bittet zum Träumen (1981)
- Tango (1981)
- Hansimania (1981)
- Non Stop Dancing '82 – Hits Around The World (1982)
- Sing mit 9 – Lass' die Puppen tanzen (1982)
- Jahrhundertmelodien (1982)
- Biscaya (1982)
- Nimm mich mit, Käpt'n James, auf die Reise (1982)
- Paradiesvogel (1982)
- Sing mit 10 – Wir wollen Spaß! (1982)
- Non Stop Dancing '83 – Party Power (1983)

10

---

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- Erinnerungen (1983)
- James Last spielt die größten Songs von The Beatles (1983)
- The Rose Of Tralee (1983)
- Superlast (1983) / Classics Up To Date Vol. 6 (1984)
- James Last im Allgäu (1984)
- Paradiso (1984)
- James Last in der St. Patrick's Cathedral (1984)
- James Last in Scotland (1984)
- Non Stop Dancing '85 (1984)
- Grenzenloses Himmelblau (1985) (Soundtrack of the movie "Grenzenloses Himmelblau" – ZDF)
- Für alle! (1985)
- Viva Vivaldi (1985)
- Swing mit (1985)
- Deutsche Vita (1986)
- James Last in Ireland (1986)
- Plus (James Last & Astrud Gilberto) (1986)
- Traumschiff-Melodien (1986) (Soundtrack of the ZDF series "Das Traumschiff")
- Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei (1987)
- James Last in Holland (1987)
- James Last spielt Bach (1987)
- The Berlin Concert '87 (1987) (live concert in the former "Palace of the Republic" – East Berlin)
- Lorentz & Söhne (1988) (Soundtrack of the ZDF TV series)
- Flute Fiesta (James Last & Berdien Stenberg) (1988)
- Dance, Dance, Dance (1988)
- James Last spielt Mozart (1988)
- Happy Heart (1989) (on the occasion of James Last's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- Wir spielen wieder Polka (1989)
- Lieder (James Last & René Kollo) (1989)
- Classics By Moonlight (1990)
- James Last in Holland 2 (1990)
- Traummelodien (James Last & Richard Clayderman) (1990)
- Pop Symphonies (1991)
- Serenaden (James Last & Richard Clayderman) (1991)

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- Viva Espana (1992)
- James Last in Holland 3 (1992)
- Frieden (1992)
- Die größten Musical-Erfolge von Andrew Lloyd Webber (1993)
- Welthits in Gold (1994) (2-CD album, on his 65th birthday)
- Christmas Eve (James Last & Engelbert) (1994)
- Dein ist mein ganzes Herz (James Last & Milva) (1994)
- In Harmony (James Last & Richard Clayderman) (1995)
- Beach Party '95 (1995)
- My Soul - Best of Motown (1995)
- Classics From Russia (1996)
- Macarena (1996)
- Pop Symphonies 2 (1997)
- Country Roads (1998)
- The Best of Live on Tour (1998)
- James Last & Friends (1998)
- Happy Birthday (1999)
- Concerts (1999)
- The Gentleman Of Music (2000)
- Ocean Drive (2001)
- James Last Plays ABBA (2001)
- A World Of Music (2002)
- New Party Classics (2002)
- Live on tour (2004)
- Elements Of James Last Vol.1 (2004)
- They Call Me Hansi (2004)
- The James Last Collection (2005) (4 CDs)
- Die schönsten TV- und Filmmelodien (2006)
- Warum Männer nicht zuhören und Frauen schlecht einparken (Soundtrack of the movie "Why men don't listen and women can't read maps") (2007) GK
- James Last In Los Angeles (original LP/ MC/ 8 Track: "Well Kept Secret" of 1975) (2008) GK
- Live At The Royal Albert Hall (CD und DVD) (2008)
- Christmas Legends (2008)
- ZDF - Kultnacht (DVD) (2008)

12

---

# PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH

- Gold – birthday edition on his 80th birthday (2009)
- Non Stop Music – Audiography (2009)
- The Music of James Last – 100 Classic Favourites, (CD, Universal England, 2010)
- 80 Greatest Hits (3 CDs / Universal England, 2010)
- My Way (DVD, 3sat Edition, 2011)
- Music Is My World (CD, Universal England, 2011)
- String of Hits (DVD, Eagle Rock, 2011)
- Live in England – 3 Legendary Concerts From The 70s (DVD, Universal Polydor, 2011)
- The America Album (CD, Universal, publication: November 2012)
- My Personal Favourites (2CD, Universal, VÖ: November 2014)