

PRESSEINFORMATION

NEWS & TERMINE DER SEMMEL CONCERTS ENTERTAINMENT GMBH



Tabular Biography

- 1929 Born April 17th in Bremen, Germany
- 1939 First piano lessons
- 1943 Military Music School in Bückeburg, favourite instrument: double bass
- 1945 He is one of the young people interested in the new sounds of jazz and swing coming over from America. AFN, the US Army's radio station in Bremerhaven, is their primary source of information.
- 1946 Together with his two brothers, Robert and Werner, he plays in the newly-founded Radio Bremen Dance Orchestra
- 1948 The Last / Becker Ensemble is founded
- 1950 In this and the following 2 years, journalists from Germany's "Jazzpoll" magazine choose James Last as the year's best double bass player
- 1955 Wedding with wife Waltraud, née Wiese
Member of the NWDR Dance Orchestra
- 1956 First arrangements for radio. Arranger for German stars like Freddy Quinn, Caterina Valente, Fred Bertelmann, Helmut Zacharias, Wencke Myhre, Lale Andersen and many more
- 1957 birth of daughter Caterina
- 1958 birth of son Ronald
- 1963 First LP/MC "Die gab's nur einmal" as the orchestra "Hans Last und die Rosenkavaliers"
- 1964 Second LP/MC "Die gab's nur einmal - Part 2" as the orchestra "Hans Last und die Rosenkavaliers"; record deal with Polydor
- 1965 First LP "Non Stop Dancing"
- 1966 Artist contract with Polydor which is still in effect today;
Composes "Games That Lovers Play"
- 1967 Four of James Last's LPs simultaneously top the English charts
- 1968 The *James Last Band* is chosen as "Orchestra of the Year" by German record dealers
- 1969 Tour of Canada; MIDEM trophy; the *James Last Band* is voted "Favourite Orchestra" by Germany's "Musikpoll"; "Arranger of the Year" award;

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- German record award for his complete recording of "The Threepenny Opera" (Fono Forum)
- 1970 Tours of the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark; the music magazine "Musikmarkt" names him the most successful instrumental interpreter; voted "Favourite Orchestra" in Germany's "Musikpoll"
- 1971 Tours of Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium; "Goldenes Grammophon" award; most successful instrumental interpreter (Musikmarkt); "Favourite Orchestra" in Germany's "Musikpoll"; "Silbermöwe" award as the most popular artist in the easy listening genre (Hamburger Abendblatt)
- 1972 Big tour of Russia, commissioned by the Goethe-Institut
- 1974 European tour; charity concert in Berlin in front of Schöneberger Rathaus (audience of 60,000); 4 open air concerts in Torremolinos/Spain; "Ehrenlöwe" award from Radio Luxemburg
- 1975 European tour; tour of East Asia, Australia and New Zealand; "Goldener Notenschlüssel" award; "Goldene Westfalahalle" award; first record produced in the USA entitled "Well Kept Secret";
- 1976 Tour of England and Ireland; "Dance into May" in Dortmund's Westfalahalle; tour of Scandinavia, Germany and Austria; "Star Of The Year" awarded by British magazines Music Week and Billboard
- 1977 Tour of Switzerland, England, Ireland and Holland; concert in Danzig; tour of the German Democratic Republic; concert recording at the "Palace of the Republic", East Berlin; "Robert Stolz Award 1977" from the Robert Stolz Foundation
- 1978 Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande (Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany) presented by Walter Scheel, the President of Western Germany
- 1979 James Last is presented with the Golden Camera award by the magazine "Hör Zu"
- 1980 150th gold record awarded; tour through England and the countries of the Far East; award presented by America's "Cashbox Magazine" for the best instrumental production of the year in "The Seduction".
- 1981 Big tour of Germany and England
- 1982 Lands a hit single with "Biscaya"; tours through the Benelux, Scandinavia and South Africa
- 1983 Tour through England and Ireland; records the "Rose Of Tralee"; records the show "Die größten Songs der Beatles" (The Greatest Beatles Songs); tour of Germany
- 1984 Big tour of England and Ireland
- 1985 Continuation of the big England/Ireland tour

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- 1986 Last of the legendary James Last costume parties in Hamburg's Ernst-Merck-Halle; tour of Great Britain, Germany, France and the Benelux
- 1987 Additional tours in Great Britain, Ireland, Holland and Belgium; concerts in Cottbus, Gera and at the Palace of the Republic in East Berlin, Germany; TV show "Kinder unserer Welt" (Children of our World) in West Berlin
- 1988 "ARD Wunschkonzert" television music show in Hanover; tour of Great Britain and Europe
- 1989 Televised open air event on Bremen's Rathausplatz on the occasion of his 60th birthday; five concerts in the "Palace of the Republic", East Berlin; two concerts in Dresden's "Semperoper" with René Kollo; Benelux tour
- 1990 Tour of England
- 1991 Tour of Ireland, Great Britain, Holland and Belgium; TV show "Sonntagskonzert" (Sunday Concert) in Wiesbaden, Germany; presented with the "Goldene Stimmgabel" by Germany's television station ZDF in honour of his longstanding international success
- 1992 "Musikrevue" television show on Germany's RTL with Peter Kraus in Zurich; TV production "Viva Espana" in Barcelona, Seville, Granada/Spain; tours of Great Britain, Holland and Belgium
- 1994 Several TV shows including "Christmas with James Last" (ZDF) with artists such as Milva, Richard Clayderman and Hans Clarin in the Basilica of Ottobeuren in the Allgäu region of Germany; presented with the "Goldene Eins" award
- 1995 Presented with the "Echo 1994 Life Award" in honour of his life's work as a German artist; tours of Great Britain, Belgium and Holland; television recording of "Beach Party" in Key Biscayne/Florida
- 1996 Two new records produced with Russian melodies and the latest hits; first big tour in Germany in 10 years with 16 sold-out concerts
- 1997 Tour of England and the Benelux, big tour of Germany
Death of his wife Waltraud
- 1999 Following a fantastic concert in London's Royal Albert Hall, James Last celebrates his 70th birthday together with his family, orchestra, numerous Polydor representatives, his management as well as friends and fans
Big European tour with nearly 50 concerts in Germany, England, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Holland.
150,000 tickets sold – the most successful tour production of the year.
Three new CDs.
Wedding with wife Christine, née Grundner, in June.
- 2000 Recognition of his life's work: on 8 September James Last is awarded the very first "Platin Stimmgabel".

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- Production of televised concert recording / DVD "The Gentleman of Music": The James Last Show is very successfully broadcast on all major TV stations across America.
- 2001 New albums released: "Ocean Drive", "ABBA" and "Gentleman of Music" as live CDs, videos and for the first time on DVD
October/November: tour of Great Britain and first concerts in Ireland in 15 years
- 2002 26-concert arena tour of Germany in April/May; TV production of "A World of Music" for America's PBS on video and DVD; sensational tour of China in September;
Big 28-concert tour of Europe in October/November
- 2004 James Last celebrates his 75th birthday; spring tour of England, Ireland and Scandinavia in April and May with 17 concerts, 3 of which in London's Royal Albert Hall;
Big 35-concert arena tour from October to December in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland; anniversary CD entitled "They call me Hansi"
- 2006 Autobiography entitled "Mein Leben" (My Life; published by Heyne Verlag) and CD "live in Europe 2004"
Big 31-concert European tour "The LAST Tour 2006", October/November
1st place in RTL's chart show "Die erfolgreichsten Stars der Geschichte" ("The Most Successful Stars in History") which included 36 albums by James Last
- 2007 "The LAST Tour - Part II": concerts in Germany, Belgium and Great Britain.
Soundtrack for the cinema film "Why Men Don't Listen And Women Can't Read Maps" (Constantin Film; directed by Leander Haussmann)
- 2008 "JAMES LAST live at the Royal Albert Hall" DVD and CD released,
production took place during the 2007 tour
- 2009 "Around the World at 80 Years" tour, 23 concerts at Europe's biggest venues (with a focus on Germany)
Awarded the "Senatsmedaille für Kunst und Wissenschaft" (Senate Medal for Art and Science) by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen;
Appointed "Honorary Senator" by the University of the Arts in Bremen;
Presented with Universal's "Lifetime Award" for over 80 million sound recordings sold;
Soundtrack for the German comedy "Dinosaurier" (Dinosaurs) (Constantin Film, directed by Leander Haussmann)
- 2011 "Music Is My World" arena tour in spring 2011, 24 concerts in Germany, England, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and Denmark

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- Arrangement of the christening song "Große Freiheit" (Great Freedom) and performance with Unheilig at the christening of the "Mein Schiff 2" cruise ship for TUI Cruises
- 2012 James Last is presented by GEMA with the Deutscher Musikautorenpreis 2012 (German Music Author Prize) for his life's work
- 2013 Golden Order of Merit for services rendered to the State of Vienna (april 8th)
- 2014 "The LAST Tour 2013 - ONE MORE TIME": Big European tour in april/may James Last is declared "Hamburg citizen of the year 2014" in the category „lifetime award" by Radio Hamburg 1 (dec 8th)
- 2015 Big tour throughout Europe „NON STOP MUSIC - live in concert 2015": 24 concerts in Germany, Denmark, England, France and Austria (2march 22nd - april 26th)
- On april 17th James Last is celebrating his 86th birthday together with his family, his musicians and the whole tourproduction-crew on tour.
- june 9th 2015 James Last dies at the age of 86 in Florida peacefully in the circle of his family.
Following his wish James Last is laid to rest in Hamburg Ohlsdorf.