

Short information about the

Mandolinen- und Gitarrenvereinigung Kamen-Heeren 1924 e.V.

(Mandolin and Guitar Union Kamen-Heeren 1924)

The "Mandolinen- und Gitarrenvereinigung Kamen-Heeren" was founded in the year 1924 by the name of "Frueh Auf" in the village of Heeren-Werve which today is part of the city of Kamen in Westphalia, Germany.

At that time Heeren-Werve was characterized by its coal mining and agricultural tradition. So in the spirit of the so-called Wandervogel movement (back to nature after a hard working day) some musically ambitious men joint to enjoy their hobby together. On January 18th, 1924 the founding document was solemnly signed by the eight members of the new club in the parental kitchen of one of them.

The club developed quickly and became a serious orchestra within a few years.

From the years 1937 to 1945 the rehearsals had to be stopped due to the growing influence of the Nazi government. Most of the members refused to let themselves and their music get politicized for the ill ideas of the Nazis.

After World War II the rehearsals were quickly started again, now with a growing support of women and children. In the following years the orchestra evolved to become a well-known cultural institution in Heeren.

From the 1950s to the 1970s the orchestra went through a golden era with radio and TV appearances when it was led by the very committed mandolinist and band leader Werner Huebert. His strong influence is visible even today, as almost every concert programme comes with at least one of his compositions or musical arrangements.

In the 1980s and 1990s the orchestra was led by Meinolf Mamys who also implemented his very own style. After a short break in the second half of the 1990s he conducted the orchestra until the end of 2012, when Thorsten Jaschkowitz took over from him. But Meinolf is still present as guitar player.

Although there was an unplanned break in 2020 during the pandemic we were able to restart our rehearsals with adequate distance shortly after the first lockdown phase. In 2022 we then had the first concert after Covid-19.

The orchestra's musical range covers "real" classic like Bach, Mozart or Beethoven as well as international folk and modern music, e.g. film soundtracks and even pop songs.

Almost as wide as its musical range is the range of age. While the oldest player has passed her 80th birthday, the youngest player has just finished school. Nevertheless, we are always happy about new players wanting to join us – no matter of which age.

You can contact the steering committee or just visit us every Friday between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. in the Lutherzentrum, Mittelstraße 66 in Kamen-Heeren.

Version: April 2023