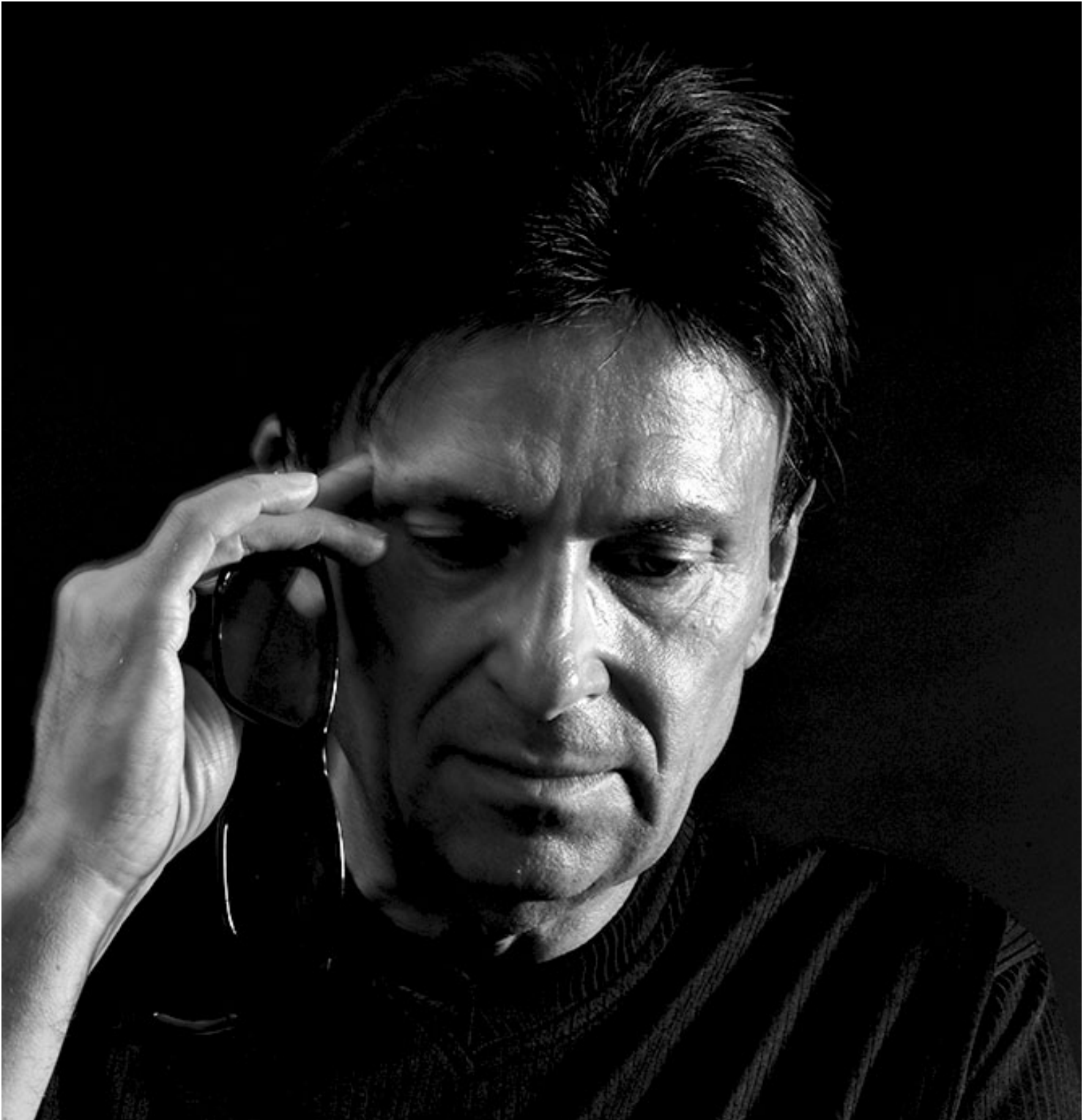


Rolf Becker



Rolf Josef Becker

(*April 8th, 1962) is a German musician, composer, arranger, conductor, author and producer who lived and worked in Shanghai for 18 years, 2 years in Jakarta, Indonesia, and now living with his family in Beijing, China since July 2024

Email: musicmylanguage@mail.com

A) The Time Before Shanghai:

Rolf began learning Clarinet at the age of 10, Tenor Saxophone at the age of 14 and Flute at the age of 16.

As a 20 year old, he was drafted into military service. There they recognized his talent and so he became the youngest member of the “**Big Band Der Bundeswehr**”, the only Big Band within the German Armee. With this orchestra he toured around the world, played e.g. in front of historic **Mount Rushmore** (showing the huge sculptures of the 4 presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln) in South Dakota (USA) or even at the **Space Centre** close to **Moscow** (this concert was live broadcasted up to the spaceship for the cosmonauts).

In parallel, Rolf was allowed to study Jazz at the Cologne Conservatory Of Music. The music subject Jazz, under the leadership of most appreciated Jazz icon, renowned Trombonist, Professor **Jiggs Whigham**, was at that time the first and only study program in Germany with a recognized degree.

As a 23 year old, in 1985 he won the audition for the Alto Saxophone position of the **RIAS Big Band**, a Radio Big Band in Berlin. Due to his exceptional sight reading skills and flexibility, to master different music instruments, he also was most welcome to join Germany's finest Big Bands and Orchestras as **Paul Kuhn Big Band, Günter Noris Orchestra, HR Big Band** (Radio Big Band in Frankfurt) etc...

Meanwhile, he began to take lessons in arranging and soon he wrote the first arrangements for various Big Bands, **TV Shows** hosted by most appreciated German Showmasters as **Harald Juhnke, Joachim “Blacky” Fuchsberger, Dieter Thomas Heck** or **Rudi Carrell**, various **Record Labels & Music Publishing Houses** as well.

Between 1985 and his move to Shanghai in 2004 as a studio musician Rolf recorded numerous tracks for TV Shows, CD productions and Jingles.

In 2000 Rolf was offered one of the 2 existing recording rooms of the famous “**Studio Cornet**” (based in Cologne) to carry on his work.

He started working as composer, arranger & producer for various CD companies (**EMI, EDEL Records, BMG** etc.) and between 2000 & 2004 he became music director of Germany's most illustrious singer, **HEINO**, produced for him 4 albums for **BMG Munich** and performed 5 major tours within Germany (hosted by German TV quote queens, **Carmen Nebel & Carolin Reiber**, several guest singers and the famous **MDR TV Ballett** (former Ballett of the Friedrichstadt-Palast).

He also toured within Germany for the oil company **ESSO**, composed music content for computer company **IBM**, launching their new products in various European locations as Corsica, Rome, Sevilla or even at the Louvre in Paris & car presentations (**BMW, Mercedes, Porsche & Volkswagen Group**) and traveled for these companies around the world, be it as **Soloist** or with the 11 piece band, “**5 & 6**” (30 days lasting Launch & Introduction of VW Golf III to all European Volkswagen Dealers in 1990 in Hannover (Gala at the “Kuppelsaal”) & “Stadthalle” Braunschweig (Briefing & Showroom) / Buenos Aires: launch of BMW Z3 in 1996 / Seoul: launch of the BMW 7 Series in 2003 / Autosalon Geneva for VW etc.)

Rolf was fortunate to work with quite a number of famous artists as:

Sammy Davis Jr., Shirley Bassey, Caterina Valente (Tour 1987), Eartha Kitt, Al Martino, Anna Maria Kaufmann, Deborah Sasson, Peter Hofmann, Engelbert, Sylvia Vrethammar, Johnny Logan, Gloria Gaynor, Jennifer Rush and many more, be it as member of various Big Bands or with a fine and well known 11 piece band of that time, the “**5 & 6**”.

In the time between 1996 and 2002 Rolf managed to publish **7 Teaching Books** for Saxophone, Trumpet & Trombone and a “time management based” learning & teaching concept (**Sax Ballads 1-3, Latin Sax, Brass Ballads, Sax for You & Time for Sax**)

B) The Time In Shanghai:

In February 1999, Rolf Becker traveled to Shanghai with a German music ensemble. This trip decisively changed his life since he immediately fell in love with this exciting and vivid city.

Fortunately he was invited to a music guest performance in Shanghai once a year until he decided to finally move to Shanghai in June's 2004 - accompanied by his wife Amira, whom he met in December 2003 on the occasion of a New Years Eve show in Los Angeles and then married in March 2004. Their daughter, Natalie-Maryam, was born on December 11th, 2007 in Shanghai.

While Rolf continued to compose and arrange for various international music productions, be it for movies, TV Series or CD productions, he soon became a fixture in Shanghai's music scene:

- In October 2004, Rolf was asked by famous actress, **Ms. Lily Ho** to form the first 17 piece Big Band in China for her owned **Club Shanghai**, a restaurant on the top floor of the former **Shanghai Concert Hall** (now Shanghai Cadillac Concert Hall).
- On 1st of February, 2006, what was exactly on Chinese New Year, Rolf was asked to conduct the **Shanghai Jazz Orchestra (SJO) and it's 1st official public Big Band Show since 1940**, held at the **Ye Hai Theater**.
- After a most successful premiere at the Ye Hai Theater Rolf Becker was asked to transform compositions of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on the occasion of his 250th birthday into Jazz, Latin & Salsa. This memorable **live TV & Radio** concert on **SMG - "Jazzy Mozart"** - with the Shanghai Jazz Orchestra, Latin Percussion Group & String Ensemble happened **April 9th, 2006** in the Shanghai Concert Hall . This concert was also shown on **CCTV** later that year.
- As composer, arranger & conductor (Bandleader) he worked for:
- 27.05.2006 **European Chamber Ball**.
- In August 2006, Rolf was asked to found the **JZ Big Band**. This orchestra played every Saturday night from then at the legendary **JZ Club** on Fuxing Road until summer of 2009 under Rolf's direction, attracted great attention not only in Shanghai and ensured a sold-out Jazz Club. He wrote many arrangements especially for this Big Band and so provided a unique sound.
- October 2006 - 2019: **German National Day** (with either Rolf's Septet, 12 Piece Band or 17 piece Big Band).
- April 2006 - 2013: **American Chamber Ball** (Rolf's 10 piece Band ensemble).
- September 2006: Launch of **Porsche 911 Turbo at 3 on the Bund including CD production**, produced by **Rolf**
- April 2007: **Chinese - German Cultural Weeks** in Nanjing (Rolf's 17 piece Big Band).
- November 2007 - 2014: **German Chamber Ball** (Rolf's Rhythm Combination & Brass Party Band).
- In 2008 Rolf was most fortunate to write tailor made arrangements for incomparable **Jin Xing**, who did a performance as singer for the launch of the Pirelli Calendar. For this unique performance Rolf re-arranged a vivid and energetic version of the well known evergreen, **"Ye Shanghai"**, originally recorded by Zhou Xuan in Shanghai's 30s.
- May 2008: Music for **"John Rabe"/Award Winning Cinema Movie, produced in Shanghai**.
- September 2008: Conducting the **JZ Big Band** at the **JZ Festival Shanghai** with guest star, **Laura Fygi**.
- July 2009: **Opening Ceremony of the German Pavilion at the EXPO** location in Pudong/Shanghai.
- October 2011: **Tag Heuer Jazz Week**, featuring Rolf's Big Band at the **Shanghai Concert Hall**.

- In June 2012 Rolf had the unforgettable pleasure to work for **Ms. Yue Sai Kan**, another worldwide well known celebrity who organized various galas to raise money for hospitals and needs, as of example the **Song Ching Ling Foundation Charity Dinner**. So Yue Sai invited the one and only **Charles Aznavour** and therefore asked Rolf to write special arrangements, form a band & strings especially for this occasion and to conduct this special show.
- After a successful performance **Yue Sai** invited Rolf to write the music for the worldwide broadcasted **Miss Universe China TV Show** in September 1st, 2012.
- June 2014: **20 Years German Chamber Shanghai** at the Pudong Shangri-La.
- November & December 2015: Rolf wrote music content for a **Hollywood** production, filmed mainly in Chengdu, directed by **Keanu Reeves**.
- Back to the collaboration with **Jin Xing**, she asked Rolf being **Music Director** for **2 New Year Eve Charity Galas: 2013 at the Fairmont Peace Hotel and 2020 at the wonderful Paramount**.
- Weekly Big Band Shows in various Jazz Clubs in Shanghai between 2006 until present time (e.g. **JZ Club, The Pearl, 1933** etc.)
- September 2019: On the occasion of the **15th JZ Festival** Rolf was invited to **conduct** the JZ Big Band but also to **write special music content** for special guests as in China most appreciated artists as **Cui Jian** or **Li Quan**.

Despite his busy schedule, Rolf Becker always reached out to Shanghai’s community and managed to successfully work with students of local schools & music schools. The nice recommendation letters from some directors prove successful cooperation and the achievement of the set goal.

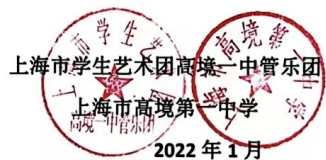
As a **music educator for international schools**, Rolf was **APAC Band Guest Conductor** in 2017, happening at the **Shanghai American School** (Puxi Campus) and **Guest Speaker** at **EARCOS** in April 2016 (**Manila**) and performed many workshops for especially young musicians.

After 18 eventful years, Rolf left Shanghai in 2022, lived and worked in Jakarta for 2 years before he moved with his family to Beijing to carry on his work, traveling, conducting, giving workshops & recording his unique music.

证明材料

Rolf 先生 2006 年担任我校爵士大乐队艺术总监，在任职期间，带领我校爵士乐队获得上海市学生艺术节西乐专场比赛的一等奖。爵士乐团还荣获上海市中学生“明星社团”称号。录制了高境一中爵士大乐队的首张专辑。Rolf 先生为我校乐团的拓展性发展起到了极大的推动作用。

特此 证明



证 明

Rolf Becker 先生曾于 2018 年担任闵行区青少年活动中心爵士乐团艺术指导，并带领乐团在中国·上海市学生艺术节西乐专场的比赛中取得了优异的成绩，在此表示衷心的感谢！

特此证明！

闵行区青少年活动中心

2022 年 1 月



Testimonials



lieber rolf,

danke auch für unsere Gespräch - und auch die Files.

dein Musik gefällt mir - bravo!!!

wir bleiben am ball.

liebe Grüße aus cape cod,

jiggs

PROF. JIGGS WHIGHAM

email: [REDACTED]

website: www.jiggswigham.com

August 18, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my sincere pleasure to write in support of Rolf Becker. I have the greatest respect for his abilities and am honored to share those perspectives.

In speaking of Mr. Becker's qualifications, please allow me to professionally introduce myself. I am an eight-time Senior Fulbright Professor of Music, and (in 2013) received China's Camellia Prize (for innovation). That same year, I was inducted into the *Down Beat* Jazz Education Hall of Fame. Twenty-years ago, I developed a cherished link to Qatar, when (as Professor of Music at Pfeiffer University/ USA), I guided one of the Father Emir's nephews through his coursework.

My first association with Rolf occurred in Shanghai (2011), when I served as a Professor of Music at Ningbo University. He was not difficult to find, having established himself as one of China's most famous musical directors. As we became interactive performers, I was impressed with his virtuosity and fertile imagination. Throughout 2013, I had the privilege to serve as one of his musicians in China's most celebrated big band. On every occasion, he was an exemplary conductor and a gifted composer/arranger. Behind the scenes, he demonstrated broad understandings, connections to all musical styles, and a theoretical background second to none.

Still, I was most impressed with Rolf's organizational skills, accomplished through patience and level temperament, alongside remarkable instincts talents for clarity and education. Throughout our joint experiences (some insurmountable by western standards), I never heard him complain, while achieving highest results. In this area of determination, management and work ethic, he has few peers. Moreover, he demonstrates a remarkable commodity for professionalism, resulting in fantastic productivity.

In short, I give Rolf Becker my unqualified support and highest recommendation. If you desire additional information, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Thomas Smith

THOMAS SMITH

Senior Fulbright Professor

Down Beat Jazz Education Hall of Fame

Phone: (1) 828- 407-6500

E-Mail: tomsmithjazz@yahoo.com

Dear Rolf,
Thanks for our talk - and the files.
I like your music - bravo!!!
Let's keep the ball rolling.
Greetings from Cape Cod,



August 17, 2020

To whom it may concern

From: Eugene Marlow, Ph.D., MBA, President, MEII Enterprises

Re: Rolf Becker, Band Leader

I am writing to recommend Rolf Becker as a premiere band leader of jazz big bands.

I have known Maestro Becker since 2006. I interviewed him at the JZ Club in Shanghai for the purpose of including his remarks in a book dealing with jazz in China. This book was subsequently published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2018.

In the course of our interview (and a further interview with Becker in 2020 for a video documentary) it became very clear he is a jazz big band of renown. He is proficient in several reed instruments (e.g., clarinet and saxophone). He has led several jazz big bands in Shanghai and in between composed and arranged music for German television.

As a jazz pianist, composer and arranger myself with several big band charts on Grammy-nominated albums, I can attest to Rolf Becker's expertise as a jazz big band leader. I have observed videos of him in front of several big bands. The quality of the big band sound is testimony to his ability and experience to bring jazz musicians together for a cohesive performance. He makes it look easy.

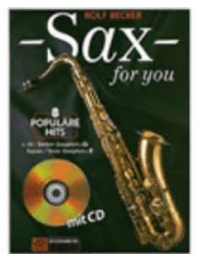
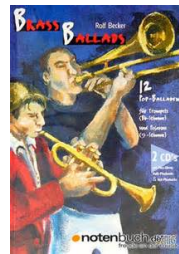
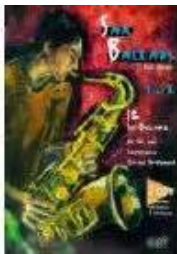
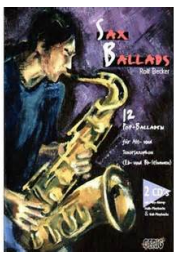
If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Eugene Marlow, Ph.D., MBA

President, MEII Enterprises (New York City)

Rolf's Teaching Books:



Shanghai's 1st Big Band Founded by Rolf Becker in Autumn, 2004



CD Production for Porsche in 2006



1st Public Big Band Performance

Revival of jazz slow but steady



Exclusive Publications



Jazzy Mozart, April 2006



With Charles Aznavour



With Jin Xing



NYE 2020 at the Paramount, hosted by Jin Xing



With Quincy Jones



With Laura Fygi

Yours

Sincerely,



With Tony Bennett



Tag Heuer Jazz Week, 2011



15th JZ Festival in September 2019