

Henning Siekmann

~ Fingerstyle Guitar ~

Biography

Henning Siekmann was born in Bielefeld, but grew up in Bad Salzuflen – a typical spa town in East Westphalia-Lippe (Germany). He started playing the guitar at the age of 14. Deeply inspired by Eric Clapton's album *Unplugged*, which leaves the cool 80s sound behind with a new warmth of acoustic instruments, he begins to take a serious look at the acoustic guitar.

The electric guitar soon becomes more attractive and initially takes center stage for a few years. Shortly after leaving school, Henning played in regional bands and music projects, mainly rock or progressive rock. Several CD recordings are made, but without any professional aspirations.

Studying musicology in Detmold could not fulfill the expectations – on both sides. Only a few courses in music history, music theory and jazz arranging did. After a few months of uncertainty, a degree in literature brought the longed-for turnaround. Gradually, a wonderful world of literature, philosophy and art opens up and, after an intensive period of reading and learning: the prospect of an academic career in science. The guitar takes a back seat for a while, everything is geared towards the degree and a subsequent doctoral thesis. Then another fortunate turn of events (in retrospect) occurs. The opportunity arose to gain a foothold in the editorial department of a renowned scientific publishing house. Although he managed to get his doctorate some time later, his academic career had long been off the table. At the same time as supervising scientific works, Henning's fascination with playing the guitar returned when he came across videos of Andy McKee, Don Ross and

John Gomm on YouTube and turned his attention to acoustic guitar and acoustic fingerstyle.

He intensively studied the music of Isato Nakagawa, Alex de Grassi, Michael Hedges and Pierre Bensusan. This was followed by workshops with Sönke Meinen, Don Ross and Ian Melrose: several years during which Henning seriously honed his playing technique and his own compositions. Many of them initially ended up in the wastepaper basket until the result gradually began to sound like fingerpicking. At some point, the feeling sets in that he has found his own voice between classic and modern fingerstyle. Soon after, eleven finished arrangements are ready – and a short time later (2024) the debut album *Don't push the River* is in the can.