

Welcome to the Wind Orchestra of the Rinteln Fire Brigade (Lower Saxony / Germany)!

The present wind band was brought into being in April 2003. Before that, the “mother band”, founded in 1921 by enthusiastic fire fighters, had been very successful during the following decades, but, nevertheless, had to be given up in 1998: Despite considerable efforts, it had not worked out to get sufficient musicians for a continuance. When in the year 2002, on the occasion of the leave-taking ceremony for Helmut Blaue, head of the town's fire brigade, a wind band was needed for the musical ceremony part, Klaus Diebietz arranged a group of 10 with musicians from the most noted regional orchestras. But this gig was not without effects: The new WOFB Rinteln was born!

Due to articles in the local newspapers, the wind band grew within a short period of time: Intensive youth work with the possibility of internal education, the webpage as well as different activities let the group grow to a number of 20 members. Because of the growth, the rehearsal room in the fire station so became too small. While looking for an adequate alternative, the band got the unique opportunity to rehearse in the former British Military Hospital which now houses the Lebenshilfe group.

Thanks to the balanced repertoire containing traditional and demanding folk, concert and light music, the wind band has concerts of different character. In 2006, we had a rather unusual enquiry from distant BÜSUM (North Sea coast). Moreover, the band takes part in various regional and local events, as the traditional Rinteln Old Town festival (Altstadtfest), and gives its already traditional Christmas and Season Concert.

The wind band also takes active part in “blowing class”-projects in local schools. In this context, a beginning band (Vororchester) was founded in 2007 in order to give the pupils an opportunity to play their instruments beyond the project. In the meantime, also musicians educated by members of the wind band joined the beginning band which is conducted by Angela Herrmann. By now, some members of the beginning band managed the step into the main band.

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary, the wind band produced its first CD “Wasser ... marsch”, which offers an insight into the multifarious repertoire and which contains a special version of the “Feubori Jubiläumsmarsch” (Anniversary March), composed by the band's conductor Klaus Diebietz. In the pursuit of the first CD production, the Christmas Concert of the same year was tape-recorded and is now available as well.

Following the CD production, the wind band needed a new challenge. The musicians decided on a workshop under professional instruction. Fortunately, Peter Jenal, member of both the Big Band of the Federal Defence Force and the Original Egerländer Musikanten, could be engaged for this occasion. After intense preparation through Klaus Diebietz, Peter Jenal took over the band for one weekend and gave us an idea of the work of professionals. During this time, Klaus Diebietz moved from the front to the back of the orchestra and supported the percussion section. In a demanding and ambitious practice, the program for the subsequent concert was partly refined and partly changed completely. Tips and tricks from the professional musician were gratefully adopted and are still tried and transformed.

With the performance of the Grand Tattoo (Großer Zapfenstreich) due to the 560th anniversary of the Rinteln Citizen's Marksmen, the orchestra reached another milestone in the young orchestra history. Together with the Spielmannszug TSV Ahnsen (flute and drum section of a marching band) the Grand Tattoo was performed next to St. Nicolai Church. The start with the march **“Preußens Gloria”** was followed by the festive serenade containing **“Marsch I. Bataillon Garde”**, **“Ave Maria” (Gounod)** as well as **“Marsch des Yorck'schen Korps”**. Then the properly Grand Tattoo was carried out, by both musical units. After the national anthem as ceremonial ending, the whole formation marched to the other side of the church, accompanied by the applause from the numerous observers. **(Grand Tattoo video part I, part II)**

Another highlight in the successful year 2010 will be the first trip to Rinteln's twin town Kendal in North-Western England. We hope to spend a fabulous time with the Kendal Concert Band and make friends with the members of the English band.