



Inge Mandos, Vocalist

www.waks.info www.ingemandos.de

Inge Mandos studied History and German at the universities of Mainz, Hamburg and Lyon (France). She occupies her private and professional time with the intensive study of the Yiddish language, Yiddish history and music as well as developing her voice. Together with high school students in Hamburg she has been involved in projects of remembrance of the plight of the Jewish peoples.

For many years she has lived in a Jewish part of Hamburg called “Little Jerusalem” in a so called “Judenhaus”. This house was built in 1903 by a foundation for large Jewish families. During the Nazi regime Jewish people who had been evicted from their homes, were forced to live there and were later deported to concentration camps. You can still see a lot of the small stores in cellars where Jewish merchants lived and conducted their business. There were several synagogues and prayer rooms around the neighborhood. In the Fifties, refugees from East European countries moved in. Some of them spoke Yiddish. This historic place encourages her to study the past.

Inge Mandos was very much touched by the history of East European Jews, their persecution, displacement and emigration. This led to her learning of the Yiddish language and songs. She discovered the rich and varied Jewish culture of Eastern Europe. This culture comes alive in the songs, which touch their audience with their immediacy to daily life and the warmth of their catchy tunes.

So it is no wonder that the vocalist, Inge Mandos, was totally fascinated when she heard authentic Yiddish voices which were recorded on wax cylinders between 1928 and 1941 in the Ukraine and Belorus. She wanted to sing along with the recorded voices.

Inge Mandos got to work on mastering the style of Yiddish songs by attending classes with Efim Chorney (Moldavia), Alan Bern, Ethel Raim and Shura Liposky. The voices on the wax cylinders also became her teachers. She interested the musicians Klemens Kaatz (piano, accordion and Indish Harmonium) and Hans-Christian Jaenicke (violin) for her project. The ensemble succeeded in integrating the voices on the phonographs into their arrangements and thus to make them members of their band.

The band created the musically and technically challenging CD project “Waks-Yiddish Voices”. In 2016 the CD was nominated for the “Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik” (The Award of the Critics for German Recordings). What followed were numerous concerts as well as presentations in Israel.

The question remained, who were these people whose voices were recorded on the wax cylinders and what became of them. With the help of the genealogist, Ayana Kimron (Israel), Inge Mandos was able to find descendants of the phonograph voices and the history of their ancestors (“OVES”) all over the world. From this WAKS produced their second CD “**OVES-Resonance of the Past**” in 2019.

