

## **A Music Stand for the Chinese People**

At the age of 17 she graduated from high school, at 23 she led a piano class at the University: Isolde Ruck. The musician living in Düsseldorf knows classical music industry from all sides. She studied piano with pianists such as Homero Francesch in Zurich and Sontraud Speidel in Karlsruhe. The single mother of a meanwhile grown-up son did not stubbornly tinker with her pianist career, but started working in music management early on.

The pure pianist career did not come about despite the concert activity. The desire to take care of her own child and to pay attention to it was not compatible with the profession of concert pianist with the inevitable tour activity, says the versatile artist.

Even the time-consuming managerial job was better compatible with family life. In Lower Saxony, Ruck became managing director and artistic director of the large stage near Wolfsburg in 2004. "I could take the child with me almost anywhere." And because the little son was so often in the event hall, he was already called the „hall's child".

But then the trip went back to the Rhineland - with new music projects. For example, Ruck organized the grand piano night in what was then Königsburg Krefeld and she also worked closely with the Düsseldorf concert agent René Heinersdorff.

"I actually wanted to be an architect," says Isolde Ruck. In any case, architecture is very closely linked to music. "Music is the architecture of time." As a child, she filled her free time with two things: drawing houses and playing the piano. "Before I sketched a floor plan, I always drew a grand piano," says the Austrian musician. "A house without a grand piano was simply unimaginable for me."

Technology and solutions to technical problems have always sparked her imagination, says Ruck. "I always came up with ideas while studying piano." When practicing the piano, the music stand of a grand piano was always too far away from the keys. "You have to be able to do something," she said to herself. And so the musician became also inventor and constructed a music stand that can be placed grand piano to lower the music sheets. She called it „Pianofit" and is produced by Rhenish handicraft companies.

But then came the really big hurdle: registering the patent. It took years for the German patent to be granted. It cost money and nerves. Now even the China patent for the huge market in the Middle Kingdom followed. "Such a patent application is not for the impatient or for people with weak nerves," says the inventor, who is now having the desk designed mainly for the Chinese market. Ruck: "Production for now is in the Rhineland."

## **A life around music**

Born in Ried in Innkreis, Upper Austria, Isolde Ruck grew up in the Rhineland. She passed her state diploma at the Cologne University of Music.

She gave concerts as a soloist and recorded for radio, television and CD. She completed her studies in musicology at the University of Cologne and taught piano while still a student.

In addition to music management and the development of several patents, she translated Leonard Bernstein's Broadway musical "Peter Pan" into German.

She gave lectures on the topic of "International Cultural Enterprises and Career Strategies". They took her to the University of Berlin, universities of the arts and academies in Germany and Liechtenstein.