

MICHAEL BRADKE

Michael Bradke (*1962) has been making music ever since he was a child. Early musical education, his parents' love of music and dance, the vivid art scene of his home city plus jam sessions of family friends made him a music lover, too. As a teenager he learned to play the guitar and became a Samba percussionist at the street carnival of Dusseldorf. Later he would found bands, organize kid's music groups at youth camps, and build his first experimental instruments. A three months long afterschool travel to the Caribbean Island Grenada, where he worked in a rural cooperative, local music culture and sessions with kids fostered his interest in world music and culture and led to his later studies and activities.

Within the social and peace movement of the early 80's and his civil service in a community neighborhood project he developed the idea of public music actions with large groups of untrained people. He studied ethnomusicology, musical science, and ethnology at the University of Cologne and Jazz education, percussion, double bass and singing at the University of Duisburg. He has been active as an educator for many years, introducing music-making and the art of music to disadvantaged children and young people in drug prevention programs, art academies for young people, and museums.

A six month internship at the Cleveland Children's Museum and some visits to the *exploratorium* in San Francisco inspired Michael Bradke to build large interactive music sculptures. He started touring schools around the world with his collections of musical games and worked at the Museum Kunstpalast Düsseldorf for many years, "translating" paintings to live music with school classes. The rise of the museum education and children's museums movement in the early 90's gave him a chance to realize his ideas of "hands on" musical empowerment. Ten years of building sculptures for temporary

exhibitions has led to a collection of large-scale music installations, which then toured as traveling exhibitions all over Europe (with some exhibitions being up to 3000 square meters large). With his stage programs and collections of musical games he has visited countries all over the world from Siberia to South Africa and Costa Rica. It was his great honor to perform at the Children's Festival of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, to receive the German Culture for Children Award in 2000 and to become an Osher Fellow of the *exploratorium* San Francisco in 2013.

Michael Bradke's exhibitions, shows and projects are viewed and experienced by more than 300.000 visitors every year.

Further information about Michael Bradke and his Mobile Music Museum can be found at www.musikaktionen.de