

Flying Guitars I - IV

What a fireworks display – in a whopping four acts! Bonn guitarist Carol Knauber has created his acoustic life's work. A collection full of musical curiosity, openness and inspiration culminates in the series of albums "Flying Guitars I - IV".

Four years ago, Carol had the first inklings of an idea that grew clearer and stronger over time. He knew that he wanted to follow this inner calling: "I needed to return to my acoustic roots, to rework the old pieces, the compositions and songs of my first two CDs. At that time, I was still recording them in my home studio."

And once an artist like Knauber gets going, there's no stopping him ... and the creativity continued unabated: after years of exacting work, Carol now presents us an acoustic journey through time.

Of course, the inevitable happened: There were so many ideas and tracks that they could not possibly all fit on a single album, and so it was quickly clear that Flying Guitars I would definitely not fly solo. But instead would take flight in a wonderful and expressive formation of sound and composition with Flying Guitars II, III and - YES, that's right! - Flying Guitars IV.

Flying Guitars I builds the foundation. Its tracks include pieces from the musical past by the guitar duo Knauber-Weiler and songs from Knauber's time in the U.S., including those, such as "Tacos for the Beast," that he wrote while living in Los Angeles in the 1980s. According to Knauber, "That particular song is about Barney, the Dalmatian of a friend of mine there. The dog was crazy and would eat anything at all, even lemons."

So with the surplus of tracks that wouldn't fit on Flying Guitars I, albums number II "Like A Bird" and III "The Search" were as good as done, because Carol never ran out of ideas. Knauber has never been limited to a single musical style: he can play anything from new acoustic, jazz to folk to bluegrass, pop and rock. And the 10 years that he spent in a band playing North African music allowed him to continue growing musically. Carol had caught fire and knew what he wanted to combine.

"Albums II and III feature my all-time favorites, such as "POWERLESS" by Nelly Furtado, "SORRENTO MOON" by Tina Arena and "HOW LONG" by Paul Carrack. I just had to find the right singers." And this, of course, worked out wonderfully: more and more songs and vocalists came together, and Carol was able to realize his dream thanks to a lot of empathy: Some of his beloved jazz standards that he always wanted to record in his own special way – as well as his new tunes.

"Of course, I could have said, 'Enough already,'" Knauber grins.

Thankfully, though, he didn't! Carol burns off the series finale with Flying Guitars IV - "Singing Undercover": relaxing and familiar titles played exclusively on acoustic guitars and mandolin. "GROOVIN" by The Young Rascals, reimagined by Paul Carrack, has been with me since the '60s. An evergreen was definitely not to be missed: "THE GIRL FROM IPANEMA" simply had to be included. And Inspired by

John Mayer's live album, I also had to have "FREE FALLIN" by Tom Petty. It's a wonderful track that had me reaching for the mandolin once again."

And so now they are available as a collection: The four albums of the acoustic project "Flying Guitars" are, according to the artist himself – "life résumé" of Carol Knauber. Along the way, he discovered his knack for art a few years ago – and so Knauber puts his very own stamp on the Carol cover with his own drawings of the "Flying Guitars".

Recording: Manfred Zmarsley/Hansa Haus Bonn

Guitars/Mandolin/Composition/Arrangements:

Carol Knauber

Vocals:

Mario Argandona

Tamara Luk Asheva

Norbert Gottschalk

Anke Beuth

Marion Levand – Preuss

Stephan Kirschner

York Allroggen

Carol Knauber Biography:

Bonn-based musician Carol Knauber was born in 1952, and he found the love of his life at the age of 15, when he strummed his first chords on the guitar. Since then it was clear to him that this love would last forever – and so it came to pass.

By the age of 13 Carol had got his first record album, and the inspiration he drew from bands like The Birds, Deep Purple, The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and also jazz performers like Herbie Hancock could finally be lived out in full range on his guitar!

Since then, everything in Knauber's life has had to do with music, strings, and commitment to his art. Here in fast forward: Carol founded two bands, "Wir" and "Skalar", performed successfully with the duo "Knauber und Weiler", then **studied at the Musicians Institute in Hollywood – and subsequently launched the guitar business "Valley Arts Guitars" in Cologne in 1986. Greater love for the guitar is hardly possible.**

Since 1992 he has recorded albums with internationally recognized musical greats, and in 1994 played his solo guitar program as the opening act on tour with Robben Ford. Amid the music, Carol also found love in his private life and started a family.

Then in 2018 he started his first new band in 20 years with musicians from the Cologne-Bonn music scene, and the "Local Heroes at Gadgets" released two CDs. **With the series "Flying Guitars" the "Sultan of Strings" Carol Knauber presents us in four albums his complete acoustic work.**