

# südpolentertainment



## MNOZIL BRASS – Biography

### Mnozil Brass – From then till now

The “Gasthaus Mnozil” is in the famous 1<sup>st</sup> “Bezirk” (quarter) of the City of Vienna. Directly opposite the Music Conservatoire. Fate played a role, and in **1993** seven young brass musicians were lucky enough to be able to take part in the regular music series held in the restaurant under the auspices of Josef Mnozil himself. Soon, original folk tunes had become occasional pieces, without any need for the music. It appeals to all ages and stages of life: typical brass music: hit tunes, jazz, pop, opera and operetta. No sense of fear here, no reprisals for anything out of place, and all played with an open mind, typical Viennese “Schmäh” (almost impossible to find an English equivalent, but best rendered as a kind of sarcastic charm), along with immense technical skills.

Mnozil Brass give around 100 annual concerts now, all over the world: from the farthest reaches of the European continent to Israel, Russia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Canada, the US, and Australia. They play to full houses, at the famous Burgtheater and Konzerthaus in Vienna e.g. or the KKL in Lucerne, at the Royal Albert Hall in London, or the Tchaikovsky Conservatoire in Moscow, the Philharmonie Luxembourg, the Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum, the opera houses in Frankfurt, Cologne, Munich, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Leipzig, the Thalia Theater in Hamburg, the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus and at the Berliner Ensemble. As for the “Gasthaus Mnozil”, well, they fill that too of course, but in a somewhat different way.

### **Mnozil Brass is an incredibly creative band. Since 2000 they have produced a new stage show almost every year:**

“Zimt” (2000), “Smoke” (2001), “Ragazzi” (2002), “Seven” (2004), “Das Gelbe vom Ei” (2007), “Magic Moments” (2009), “Mnozil spielt Mnozil” (2010), Blofeld (2012), Happy Birthday (2013), Hojotoho” (2013), Yes YES YES (2015), “CIRQUE” (2017) (Regie : Philippe Arlaud – Choreographie: Virginie Roy), GOLD (2019), PHOENIX (2020), JUBELEE (11/2023)

### **And in between times there was even time left over for some successful theatre work:**

- “Das trojanische Boot” (Operetta by Mnozil Brass and Bernd Jeschek, Premiere at the RuhrTriennale 2005, Dir: Bernd Jeschek, Music: Mnozil Brass)
- „Irmgard“ („wahrscheinlich eine Oper“ by Mnozil Brass and Bernd Jeschek, Premiere at the Salzburger Festspielen, 2008, Dir: Bernd Jeschek, Music: Mnozil Brass)
- „Blofeld“ (Premiere at the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspielen, 2011 Dir. and choreography: Ferdinando Chefalo, Music: Mnozil Brass).
- “HOJOTOHO” “A Wagner-Bass-Comedy” (Commissioned by the City of Bayreuth on the occasion of the Richard Wagner 2013 Jubilee) Dir: Philippe Arlaud, Music: Richard Wagner / Thomas Gansch / Leonhard Paul / Gerhard Fülls Choreography: Anne Marie Gros – Lightdesign: Mariella von Vequel-Westernach

### **No wonder they have won so many awards**

2001 Nomination for the Amadeus Austrian Music Award.

2006 Cabaret Prize “Salzburger Stier”, the most renowned prize in German-speaking territories.

### **CDs:**

“Volksmusik aus Österreich No Ziel” (Mnozil Brass & Gansch Schwestern), 1997

“Wenn der Kaiser grooved”, 1998

“Dasselbe in grün”, 2000

“Zimt”, 2000

“Smoke live”, 2002

“Ragazzi”, 2004

“What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life?”, 2007

“Almrausch”, 2009

“Yes Yes Yes” 2015

### **Six of their stage shows are already on DVD:**

“Seven”, 2005  
“Das Trojanische Boot”, 2007  
“Das Gelbe vom Ei - La Crème de la Crème”, 2008  
“Irmingard”, 2008  
“Magic Moments”, 2010  
“Blofeld”, 2012

### **Books:**

„20 Jahre MNOZIL BRASS“, 2013

Mnozil Brass wrote and recorded the music for the Austrian film “Freundschaft” (2006, Dir: Ruppert Henning, with: Ruppert Henning, Erwin Steinhauer, Arthur Klemt).

## **The Musicians**

### **Thomas Gansch**

Born in St. Pölten – grown up in Melk an der Donau. One of the band’s founding members. At the time he was at the tender age of 17, but had already deputised at the Vienna Staatsoper. His love of jazz was stronger however and thus it is that he became one of the most successful trumpeters in Austria, one who led in terms of style

He can play anything on his instrument: jazz, classical, crossover and anything in between. Other than that he is like a whirlwind on stage and can tell a good joke or two, with perfect coming timing. When he has time off, he composes (not only) for Mnozil Brass and makes sure new projects come to fruition.

### **Robert Rother**

Like Thomas, he also hails from Melk an der Donau, where they both played as children in a wind band conducted by Thomas’ pretty strict father. Polkas were on the programme, but they played waltzes and marches too. A good learning experience it seems. Robert can engender a tone that is guaranteed to bring anyone to tears. With so much longing and so much feeling. By way of contrast to Thomas, he hardly moves on stage at all and lets the music just speak for itself.

### **Roman Rindberger**

He was also born into a musical family and played folk music as youngster with his father and two brothers. His father Hans, in turn, would meet up with Gerhard Füßl’s father Franz, because the families lived nearby. Roman loves classical and the more technical passages, ones he renders with the precision of a Swiss clock-maker. And he even claims to know how it works! Anyone who wants to know more about brass music, then Roman is the man for you. On stage he plays the Latin Lover.

### **Leonhard Paul**

He was born in Mödling nr. Vienna and is the first musician his family ever produced. Although there was a grandfather who earned his money as a painter and whose pictures hang in every other house in the better areas of Vienna. Recently, the other members of the band have started to be a little concerned about him, because he seems to have taken a liking to shady characters. Everyone wishes to play the hero, but he has taken on roles which display the darker side of man. So what is going on in his head exactly?

### **Gerhard Füßl**

He grew up not far away from where Roman lived and was also able to count on a father who taught him much about brass music. He is the most loved among the group. Probably because he looks after financial matters. Everyone tries to keep on his good side. And no-one wants to encourage his wrath, remaining as friendly as can be. For his part, he is usually friendly to all in turn.

### **Zoltan Kiss**

Austrian folk music was certainly not part of his background, as he was born in Budapest. He spent some time in Poland before finally settling in Vienna, where he plays trombone in four languages. One of the group’s favourite games is to put some really difficult music on his stand and see if he can play it. And he can! His technical skills on the instrument are amazing, it takes one’s breath away. And bets have been placed as to when and how something will be written that he can not master. The higher the line goes, the better, the lower it goes too. It just can not be fast enough that he can not play it.

### **Wilfried Brandstötter**

He began his meteoric rise to fame on the humble recorder. After that he sang treble in the choir. And then he wanted to be a violinist. It seemed he had settled for the trumpet, before finally plumping for the tuba. Speed is not his thing really. What he likes to do best is to produce some nice notes that are neither too high nor too low and make the concert hall and those sitting in it resonate in a pleasant way. He has no idea why people like tunes in brisk tempi.

For more information visit: <http://www.mnozilbrass.at>

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