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THE TROUBLE NOTE'S MUSIC IS AN ECLECTIC FUSION OF genre
across the entirety of the musical spectrum, creating a
sound that is truly unique to its own

Rob Underwood, BBC Radio Lincolnshire

PRESS KIT

BIOGRAPHY



The story of The Trouble Notes starts in Manhattan at a Wall Street investment fund and leads to the metropolis Berlin marking the beginning of a new chapter.

This chapter stands in the name of travel and lets the group understand that music is a universal language. To reduce cultural barriers, The Trouble Notes have made it their mission to create their own cultural universe, mixing influences from all over the world into their songs. The emotional, pan-cultural music of the group, forms personal memories into a colorful melting pot of different traditions, touching on deep and complex stories of the human condition and social experiences.

The Berlin based trio is composed of violinist **Bennet Cerven**, guitarist **Florian Eisenschmidt** and percussionist **Oliver Maguire**. An enchanting usually very fast played violin is the voice of the trio, but it's not only the play of the violin that defines the group's music. The groove of the cajón paired with a rhythmic guitar build the incomparable sound of the band. Describing themselves as "Instrumental World Fusion", their music is characterised by emotionally driven, instrumental ballads reflecting pan-cultural influences and blending an eclectic fusion of traditions, to create a truly unique sound; representative of their ex-tensive travels and consequent musical development.

The group has achieved success and wide acclaim for past releases, with their previous EP **Soundtracks from the Street** reaching the **Top 5 in USA iTunes charts for Latin & World Music**, as well as garnering 100 million+ video views on publications including **Grand Masquerade**, **Gypsy Train** and **Christoph**. In 2016 their song **Ghosts of the Red Sand** was selected as the theme song for RBB's Auf **Augenhöhe**.

The popularity of their previous EP and the great response of the audience and various online platforms in Germany, UK and France, result from the group's ability to share their energy with their audience and fascinate them by breaking with musical traditions. Everyone that joins the universe of The Trouble Notes remains a part of it, and often morph

**THE GROUP INVITES THEIR AUDIENCE
TO JOIN THEM ON A CULTURAL AND
GEOGRAPHICAL EXPEDITION**

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from a normal concertgoer into a true Troublemaker-sharing in the journey of the group.

Their new single, and title track of the album **Lose Your Ties**, is an immersive, emotionally charged and thrilling piece of music, encapsulating a melting pot of influences. This track, as with their other releases, deliberately lacks lyrics to allow the listener to create their own vision of what transpires during each song, to allow people from any corner of the world to embark on a cultural and geographical expedition.

Their **Lose Your Ties** album, released in February 2018, showcases a development of their expressive, incredibly diverse sound, representing the start of a new, and exciting, musical journey. The first

run of The Trouble Notes **Lose Your Ties** show was presented by **Cosmo** and **taz** and debuted to sold-out audiences in Hamburg, Frankfurt, Cologne, Leipzig and Berlin. Not only has it taken them all over Europe but this Fall the band is getting ready to finally meet new fans and friends on their extensive USA and Canada Tour.

Having played over 700 shows in 20 different countries The Trouble Notes have managed to build a loyal fanbase with their unique and energetic performances all around the world.

Fascinated by the manifold encounters, the band follows the little voice, that

has allowed them to lose their ties, from one magical place to the next. In their packed van, they drive through Europe. A never-ending adventure living their theme:

« Music from everywhere for everyone ».



THE BAND

The Trouble Notes story begins when Bennet moved from Indiana to New York City and finally began take ownership of his prodigious musical gifts. At the age of four, he began playing violin, and by 15 he was classically trained performing with orchestras and wowing audiences in competitions. The problem was that classical music bored him. Instead of drilling musical exercises, he began to devote his practice time to playing along to the television and the radio. Applying schooled technique with imagination in a contemporary music or cultural setting would wonderfully prefigure the spirit imbuing The Trouble Notes.

In New York, he found himself longing for a creative outlet to medicate his soul while it felt numbed

by Wall Street. He found himself often alone on the band of the East River, filling his spirit, improvising from his heart. He also found solace in the demand for violin in the bustling and diverse music scene. Stripping away the flash and distraction of a career in finance, Bennet began to heed an inner call to pursue a form of international diplomacy. He began to realize that call was coming from his violin—his music was meant to spread healing and joy worldwide. “It all happened gradually, there are little whispers, and then one day you wake up and say ‘screw it,’” he reveals. “Something emotional happens, and what you’ve been thinking about for months becomes a reality.”

By the time Bennet decided to cut ties and move to London, he already earned his bones on the streets of New York. “If you can work



on the streets of New York, you can work anywhere. There, you’re lucky to get five seconds of anyone’s time. That where I learned about showmanship, dynamics, energetic performance, and how to speak to audiences,” he recalls. Soon the adventure began: London, Ireland, Prague, and, finally, Berlin where The Trouble Notes have a home, friends and girlfriends, and a dedicated fanbase.

Along the way in this journey, something special happened: one man’s quest became a cultural movement. In London, after a transcendent jam in Hyde Park, Bennet found a creative and ideological soulmate in percussionist

Oliver Maguire. His command of hip-hop and beats and traditional rhythms, and gifts for intuiting the energy of the crowd has been crucial to shaping the group’s panoramic artistry. Upon meeting, Oliver packed up his life to become a seeker. The two found their missing comrade in Berlin. Guitarist Florian Eisenschmidt comes from the studio and rock band circuit. With The Trouble Notes, he predominantly plays nylon string guitar—an instrument suited to subtle fair such as classical and flamenco—propulsive urgency, capturing the dynamics and excitement of hard rock and psychedelic rock.

VIDEOS



The Trouble Notes Lose Your Ties
Live at Festsaal Kreuzberg



The Trouble Notes - highlight reel



The Trouble Notes - Grand Masquerade
Live Performance - Kaos Berlin



Lose Your Ties Official Music Video



Grand Masquerade Official Music Video



Ghosts of the Red Sand Official Music Video

TV & FILM SCORES

The Trouble Notes emotional, pan-cultural music, forms personal memories into a colorful melting pot of different traditions.

Their songs lack lyrics, because they want the listener to be able to create his or her own vision of what transpires in each song and not restrict it by any language other than music itself.

Evoking emotions and beautiful images in the mind of the listener their music has been chosen for film, tv and commercials:

Their Songs Catalonia Calling & Boddah were chosen for the documentary film When Paul came over the Sea by Jakob Preuss.

An unusual friendship grows in the context of the ongoing European debates on migration.

Paul has made his way from his home in Cameroon across the Sahara to the Moroccan coast where he now lives in a forest waiting for the right moment to cross the Mediterranean. This is where he meets Jakob, a filmmaker from Berlin, who is filming along Europe's borders. Soon afterwards, Paul manages to cross over to Spain on a rubber boat. He survives but half of his companions die on this tragic 50 hour odyssey. Held for two months in a deportation centre, upon his release Paul meets Jakob again at a shelter for migrants in Southern Spain. When Paul decides to continue on to Germany, Jakob has to make a choice: will he become an active part of Paul's pursuit of a better life or remain a detached documentary filmmaker?

www.pauloverthesea.com/



Film Awards:

Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis 2017
Official Selection International Film Festival Rotterdam 2017
Best Documentary Bergamo Film Meeting 2017
Lobende Erwähnung New Berlin Film Award Achtung Berlin 2017
Main Prize Docu / Rights - Docu Days UA -
International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival 2017

TV & FILM SCORES

Their Song Ghosts of the Red Sand was chosen as the main theme song for the rbb documentary series Auf Augenhöhe.

Als sich Anna und Mohammed, Mariana und Janina, Tino und Aboud, Zaher und Jan zum ersten Mal trafen, wussten sie nichts voneinander. Die Autorin Sally Musleh Jaber hatte Blind Dates zwischen jeweils einem Geflüchteten und einem Einheimischen arrangiert.

In ihrer Doku-Reihe «Auf Augenhöhe» begegnen sich auf diese Weise Fotografen und Musiker, Studentinnen und Lehrer aus Deutschland, Syrien und dem Irak - und sie alle finden heraus, dass sie viel mehr verbindet als ihr Hobby oder ihr Beruf. Nun kommen sie erneut zusammen. Das Eis ist gebrochen, die Neugierde aufeinander noch gewachsen.

Sie tauschen sich aus über ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen, über Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede ihrer Kulturen, über witzige und peinliche Missverständnisse. Rückblenden erinnern an die ersten Begegnungen, das Konzert der Band The Trouble Notes wirft auch einen Blick in die Zukunft. Ein Film über das Abenteuer des Kennenlernens.



Their Song Catalonia Calling was chosen for the Ortel Mobile Commerical Campaign:



PRESS

The Trouble Notes have performed live on major media networks in multiple countries, including on WBEZ Chicago's "Worldview", BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Metro Radio UK's "Nightowl" with Alan Robson, Deutschland Kultur Radio, and "Sons Urbanos" on Canal Bis in Brazil.

Their song "Ghosts of the Red Sand" was selected as the theme song for RBB's "Auf Augenhöhe." Their song "Catalonia Calling" was selected for the advertising campaign for Ortel Mobile, airing on networks in Germany. In Germany their brand new Lose Your Ties Tour was presented by cosmo and taz.

RADIO



ONLINE



[...] «With a legion of strong following fans and a viral presence from their incredible live videos, their upcoming album Lose Your Ties arrived for their fans in February this year.» [...]

«The music is an interesting and quite unusual combination of progressive rock roots with rhythmic beats while also adding an exotic jazz flavour to the recipe.» [...]



[...]» This band can't be pigeonholed so easily, as it's there variety of songs and their impulse charge of sound which lead them from the streets to private concerts and eventually into the spotlight. "[...]"

[...] « Profibands wie «The Trouble Notes» lassen die Reaktion des Publikums direkt in ihre Musik einfließen » [...]



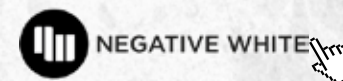
[...]» A mix of plugged-in violin, nylon string guitar, and a single percussionist combine to give this trio a specific flavor – part Romani, a large dash of folk, with some traditional Irish rhythm and modern-day indie influences thrown in.» [...]

[...]» Gesang brauchen die Musiker bei ihrem Spiel nicht, sie fokussieren sich allein auf das Zusammenspiel der Instrumente. "[...]"



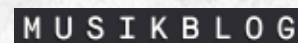
TELEVISION

Titelmelodie der rbb Reihe Auf Augenhöhe:



[...] « Grand Masquerade ist ein Kurzfilm zu einem schweren Thema. Mit einer Mischung aus Tanz, Pantomime und Theater wird erzählt, dass wir alle Masken tragen. Und was in einer Familie passiert, wenn jemand sie fallen lässt.» [...]

[...]» Wie Christian Bale im Film „The Big Short“ als Hedgefond-Manager sich mit wilden Schlagzeugsoli



Ablenkung vom stressigen Job verschafft, spielte der ehemalige New Yorker Investmentbanker Bennet Cerven Violine, bis er irgendwann entschied, nur noch Musik machen zu wollen, und sich vom Saulus zum Paulus wandelte. Um sich vereinte er den Percussionisten Oliver Maguire aus London und den Gitarristen Florian Eisenschmidt aus Braunschweig. Sie nennen sich The Trouble Notes und spielen und performen ihre Musik auf der Straße, wo auch die Songs entstehen. Dabei kommen sie ganz ohne Gesang aus. » [...]



[...] « Each song carries the spirit of the place it was written in and that is what makes it unique. » [...]

Staatlich geförderte Musikgruppe der Initiative Musik Berlin: Projektförderung des Albums Lose Your Ties:

[...] « Das Leitmotiv des Albums ist unsere Geschichte. Ein sicheres Heim und einen festen Arbeitsplatz gaben wir bereitwillig auf, um unserem Traum des Reisens zu folgen, neue Kulturen (vor allem ihre musikalischen) zu entdecken und unseren musikalischen Horizont zu beflügeln. Während die Relevanz unseres Traums anhält, ist Lose Your Ties ein allgemeiner Aufruf an die Gesellschaft. Der Titelsong beschreibt die Suche nach dem Sinn unseres Lebens aber gleichsam das Erkennen der Hürden, die wir für die Realisierung unseres Traums überwinden müssen.» [...]

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