

The string magician talks about morning creativity, Schwerte, and Jon Bon Jovi in the WR-Interview.

# Zum Frühstück beim „Gitarrenguru“

By Janis Brinkmann

In the past days there was a profile of the Schwerter band scene on these pages. From Rockpop to Punk all the way to Heavy Metal, everything was there. For the closure of our band series „Schwerte Rocks!“ a man who influenced many young rockers in Schwerte as musician and guitar teacher talks: In the newspaper WR „string magician“ Dirk Edelhoff talks about morning creativity, the homeland Schwerte, and a disoriented Jon Bon Jovi on a Monday morning at 9 a.m.

**A question for starters: How does an interview at breakfast time fit into the common image of Rock'n'Roll?**

**Dirk Edelhoff:** I am an early bird anyway, so early appointments are no problem for me at all. From noon on until the evening I teach my students to play the guitar, so there is not much time left for press work.

**When do you work on new song ideas and arrangements?**

People are generally more concentrated and productive in the morning. The time until noon is my creative high phase. Then I try new melodies or work on old pieces.



Ein ausgewiesener Klasse-Musiker und für viele Schwerter Gitarristen prägend: Dirk Edelhoff. (Bild: Ralph Bodemer)

I can digitally save the ideas in my small home recording-studio and continue working on them at the computer.

**You are a self-employed guitar teacher. Which music genres do you prefer to teach?**

In general, I listen to everything. I love music, and do not differentiate between good and bad, but more between well done and not well done. It has to be grown and authentic. Other than that, the students can bring any kind of music to me, in that sense I do not differentiate between jazz and metal music.

**Many guitarists of the young Schwerter band generation were or are still your students. How would you describe your influence on music in Schwerte?**

Of course there is influence. The guitarists from “Timmy On The Potty” took lessons from me, just like Jonathan Walter of “Numbnation”, who now lives in Hamburg, has a record deal, and is cared for by the producer of “Tokio Hotel”.

Students are also welcome to bring their own compositions, and we work on the riffs and licks together. Why should later rock musicians learn easy folk music?

**„I give the students the tools, but their fingers make the music“**

**Is an Edelhoff-student recognizable by his guitar playing?**

I hope not! That would be very monotonous and would grow boring quickly. Every musician should develop their own style. I can only give my students the tools, but in the end, their fingers make the music.

## You have played in over twenty bands. How romantic is tour life really?

First of all, a tour is always extremely exhausting. Of course it is fun, you gain new impressions, and meet interesting people, but you also have to be very disciplined. A musician who goes to every After-Show-Party will be so tired on the third day that you will have to cancel the rest of the tour. Many groups also have a strict prohibition for alcohol on tour, and instructions to work out every day. One example for a tour rage: when I was backstage for Bon Jovi in 1991, the band only knew they were playing in Germany right now, but they had no idea in which city. It was the 80th concert in a row, and the boys were completely exhausted.



Früh übt sich, wer ein Meister werden will: der junge Dirk Edelhoff. (Bild: privat)

## You have worked in large cities like Cologne. Why do you like the idyll of a small town?

I think I would have gone crazy in Cologne after a while. Large cities have an amazing noise level,

and one is way too caught up in outer influences, instead of really finding oneself.

Schwerte is my hometown: I can concentrate extremely well here to make music, and focus on creative ideas, without being distracted all the time.

## What is your favourite CD right now?

Currently I listen to Incubus a lot. I especially like the album „Morning View" because of the musical versatility.

## ABOUT THE PERSON

### Old stager in the German Rock-, Jazz- and Blues scene

**Dirk Edelhoff was born 1963 in Iserlohn and grew up in Schwerte. At 12 years he discovered his love for the guitar in the course of the upcoming rock music wave and won the renowned Nordrhein-Westfälische competition "Jugend jazzt" twice during the following years.**

After this double triumph in front of an international jury Dirk decided on his professional future: „I wanted to be a musician."

His idols were and still are the jazz guitarist John Scofield and Pat Metheny.

After studying classical guitar in Dortmund,

Remscheid and later in Cologne he continued to become a teacher for electrical guitar in 1982 at the private MGI (Munich Guitar Institute) and still leads seminars and workshops on his instrument until this day.

On the side, the professional musician composed advertisement jungles for various TV spots and worked as a studio and live musician for several productions.

In the German specialist magazine „Gitarre und Bass" he developed the workshop „Guitar Techniques", which was meant to teach the readers modern and special guitar playing.

For a few years now, he has a endorsement contract with the guitar and amplifier company "Framus", in which he advertises the instruments.

In 2006 there was an concert tour with "Lisa Fitzgibbon", and currently concerts with the legendary American bass-player John Lester are planned throughout the entire "Ruhrgebiet" area.

Dirk Edelhoff describes himself as an „Old stager of the German Rock-, Jazz- and Blues scene" and has proven this claim many times during the past 30 years.

He played in numerous bands like Epitaph, Infusion,

Airplay, the Soulfingers, and his own band, the Dirk Edelhoff Band (with "Guildo Horns" drummer Tommy Fischer).

[www.dirk-edelhoff.de](http://www.dirk-edelhoff.de)

