

## **Introduction of the company as it is today, and the person behind the company**

My name is Babette Wackernagel Batcho. Back in 2010, I founded the music school *Musik trotz allem* ["music despite all obstacles"] (*Mta*) in Basel, where I grew up and studied music. *Mta* is a music school for everyone, from the age of 7 upwards, either with or without disability. The booster association *Musik trotz allem* promotes inclusion in the field of music education on a nationwide level.

## ***The foundation Musik für alle (Mfa)***

To me, being able to work both as a musician and also as a music teacher in the canton with the first disability rights law in Switzerland, means both an incentive and an obligation. Together with Lukas Ott, Head of Urban Development for Basel, and Marc Bräutigam, owner of a trust company in Reinach, BL, I set up the foundation *Musik für alle* in Basel on 21 June 2021, on World Music Day. The foundation operates internationally.

Our times are characterised by a (often dramatically) decreasing number of students attending music schools; and the cry for equal opportunities gets louder, especially in the field of education; and also, people are searching for an exemplary cultural diversity based on reconciliation. In these times, Switzerland needs answers, as well as models for further discussion, and role models, which support the existing systems in breaking new ground.

After 16 years of research and developing expertise in the field of music and disability, my fundamental interest lies in the question of whether - and in which way(s) - other minorities, such as poverty-ridden people, adolescents, senior citizens and/ or people with a migration background, are also given access to musical education in the Rhine's knee area; and which are the actual obstacles - and I always strive for being a role model for others.

## **Art. 2 – Purpose**

*The non-profit foundation enables people in difficult living circumstances, namely due to disability, poverty, migration or old age, to participate in society through music. In particular, the foundation enables these people to learn playing a musical instrument and to make music together.*

*The foundation carries out all supporting and operational activities which are included within the scope of the foundation's purpose or are factually related to this. The foundation may also cooperate with other organisations, or support these, or set up and operate other organisations.*

*The foundation operates in Switzerland and abroad. It is a non-profit institution and does not pursue any self-help purposes.*



f.l.t.r.: Marc Bräutigam, Babette Wackernagel Batcho and Lukas Ott on the foundation day

*please turn over*

## **Milestones following the set-up of the foundation**

The foundation shall be operational as of the foundation date.

On the one hand, *Musik für alle* is intended to give senior citizens, people with disabilities, people affected by poverty, adolescents and/ or people with a migration background access to music education at an affordable price.

The other major goal of the foundation is to offer a platform for support, exchange of expertise and networking with regard to an inclusive music education to motivated individuals showing initiative, to institutions or associations, and so on, who are already involved in an inclusive music education, or those who wish to do so. Since the purpose of the booster association *Musik trotz allem* to a large extent correlates with that of the foundation, it does not really make sense to continue operating this association. On 25 October of the previous year, the general meeting agreed to the dissolution of the association. Meanwhile, the association is in liquidation.

The foundation, on the other hand, is working flat out to design its range of services in such a way that both low-threshold and talent promotion are ensured, in equal measure. The former staff of *Musik trotz allem* will be taken over as far as this is possible, and the administrative vacancy, a position unfilled during the Covid years, will be filled.

For the time being, *Musik trotz allem*, as a sole proprietorship company, will be retained as the actual service provider. The foundation shall purchase services from the company.

Since 1 December 2021, music lessons take place in the former branch of the Basler Kantonalbank in the Breite-Quartier part of town. Our other venue is to be found in the main building of the newly refurbished barracks, the kHaus.

*Musik für alle* is a private operating foundation and does not give donations. The school will start operating in the school year 2023/24. For the following reason, the music pedagogical/andragogical concept is not yet completely in place: To ensure that the foundation is going to work together with the five groups of intended beneficiaries right from the start of product development, a so-called steering group is set up. The representatives of this group, together with part of the *Mta* team, led by an educationalist and an ethnologist, shall

1. reflect on their own learning biographies,
2. reflect on how learning to play a musical instrument and making music together has contributed/ contributes to their own socialisation,
3. derive theses (assertions) from the results, and develop arguments for these,
4. and these arguments, then, shall form the basis for product development or adaptation, which is then taken up by the advisory board.

The steering group is an ad hoc committee whose activity is limited to 4 months.

## **Contact**

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Basel, 28 November 2022

Donation account:

Migros Bank Basel, IBAN CH18 0840 1000 0675 8348 2, Postkonto Migros Bank 80-533-6