



(c) 2019, photo: JS. Strauss, Berlin

Because of the Russian Blockade of West Berlin the “Operation Vittles” aka “Berlin Airlift” (of the West Allied Forces) lasted from 1948-1949. Among all jazz bands and orchestras "Long John & his Ballroom Kings" has been working on this topic since 2017. The result is a **tribute show with words and music** (English and German) demonstrating the aesthetics of contrasts of enemies that became friends!

The years after 1945 were especially exciting for Berlin. A significant and formative time because of the general supply situation as well as for music: who wanted to buy a new record had to give an old disc for it. That's how unpopular music got recycled and old songs disappeared. After the war the established swing hits could be heard in public without any harm (or arrest) and it was allowed to dance to current hits from America. Each song is presented with an individual background story. Long John & his Ballroom Kings established a 60 minute (up to 90 min.) bilingual Berlin Airlift tribute program, *which can focus (in 2020) only on hits of the (75<sup>th</sup>) end of World War II.*

The American hits and stories are performed by the singer, entertainer and bandleader "Long John" aka JS. Strauss. Max von Zimmer (cl, voc) is telling anecdotes, singing and playing the German part to the original American hits. Listen or dance to "In The Mood" as well as to the retrospective of Strauss' own musical work of the "Berlin Airlift Swing".

During the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift in 2019, "Long John & his Ballroom Kings" participated on festivals, club shows and non public events. Coordinated, sponsored or supported by the local city council of Berlin Reinickendorf, the US Embassy in Berlin and the German Fulbright Commission, CARE, Stiftung Luftbueckendank, a major corporate company and others.

Johannes-Sebastian Strauss was born and raised in the American Sector of the occupied city of West Berlin. As a non-military employee Strauss worked for the US Army from 1990 to 1991.

For references, videos, press and more feel welcome to [www.ballroomkings.de](http://www.ballroomkings.de)

