

Interview

Ken Day - Director Urkult festival, founder D Tours booking agency.

Ken was working at the Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, New York from 1977-80. His good relationships with the great artist Don Cherry lead him to start a concert series at the Tinker Art Gallery called "World Music" around 1978.

In Sweden, his new country, he continued to make tours with musicians from Gambia and Senegal in the beginning of the 80's. He started in 1995 D TOURS booking agency where he booked most of the biggest world music artists, like Youssou N'dour and Femi kuti. In 1995, together with friends, he started Urkult festival in Näsåker (Sweden). Ken Day is Consultant for different projects.

More info : <http://www.dtours.org/>

WM Oasis - How come that you have got the idea to give the title **world music** to your book already 1982? How did you think of this name?

Ken D - I was a friend of Don Cherry already in the early 70s. I lived near him in Skåne, close to Steve Roney. Don already coined the phrase "world music" back then. He came up with this because he was out playing music all over the world with all kinds of musicians. I was working at the Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, New York from 1977-80. It was Don who got me a job there. We started a concert series at the Tinker Art Gallery called "World Music" around 1978, where we presented musicians from India, Africa, US, Latin America Jazz and traditional and classical musicians...sometime playing together and creating something new...sometimes just on their own.

WM Oasis -What do you think about the decision to use "world music" to categorize all the rest of the music that was not pop, rock, jazz, and classic in 1987 ?

Ken D - It was a way to put a label on all kinds of "exotic" traditional and ethnic music...that did not fit into the other categories...Later it seemed to become a way to describe a kind of mixture of styles and instruments...a fusion if you will...

WM Oasis -What is your definition for world music?

Ken D - All music to me is "world music"...everything that is in the world!

WM Oasis -World music magazine fRoots Ian Anderson, describes this music as 'local music from out there'. What do you think about this description?

Ken D - I understand what Ian is saying...it's his description...

WM Oasis - According to your experience, who were the initiators or the pioneers of the world music in Sweden?

Ken D - In my experience I still have to give the nod to Don Cherry... and the musicians he played with in Sweden...starting in the 60s! Long live Don! He is missed....