

## Interview

### Ian Anderson – Director fRoots magazine

Anderson have been involved in music since the 60 's as a musician, producer, broadcaster, writer, designer, photographer, event producer, tour organiser, album producer and compiler, founder of label Rough records, freelance writer and editor of the magazine folk roots. and general jack-of-all-trades in the fields of folk, roots and world music.

Anderson was actively involved in the 1987 campaign which established the term world music. In 2001 he developed the Awards for World Music which were produced and run by BBC Radio 3 from 2002 to 2008.

More info : <http://www.ianaanderson.com/> - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian\\_A.\\_Anderson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_A._Anderson)

---

**WM oasis** -Your description of World Music is: ‘**local music but not from here**’, and it means practically any music that isn't, at present, catered for by its own category e.g.: Reggae, jazz, blues, folk. Can you explain a little bit more what you mean?

**Ian A** - That quote is incorrect. It's “Local music from out there”, which includes”HERE”

”Local music not from here” was just a joke from the Marseille Womex in the late 1990s when somebody was asking “What is World Music in Borneo? Somehow it escaped, but it's not and has never been our definition. “Local Music from Out There” first appeared on our cover in November 1988 when we changed out title to fRoots, and has been there ever since.

Also, it's not a genre. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS WORLD MUSIC. It's just a label on a box.

**WM oasis** -The new world music generation of musicians is not able to fill concert halls anymore, expect Tinariwen and a few more. No one has succeeded to replace artists like Cesaria, Fela, Nusrat or Cheikha Remitti, even if the possibilities to succeed are better now than 25 years ago. Why do you think it's like that?

**Ian A** - Mainstream media coverage. Fashion. But I don't think that's specific to world music: when a new artist comes along who inspires the public and gets the publicity they will fill concert halls.

**WM oasis** -We can read in folk roots these sentences: Nobody thought of defining it or pretending there was such a genre: it was just to be a box of convenience, like jazz, classical or rock. But it seems like there is a big confusion concerning what we can put in this box, where are the limits to be admitted in this”world music box:

**Ian A** - It has been fRoots for more than 15 years!

Nobody thought of defining it or pretending there was such a genre: it was just to be a box of convenience, like jazz, classical or rock.

**WM oasis** - But it seems like there is a big confusion concerning what we can put in this box, where are the limits to be admitted in this "world music box"?

**Ian A** - In the heads of people with too much time to think! I don't see any more confusion than there is about whether to put things in the 'rock', 'jazz' or 'classical' boxes.

Also, there are hardly any record shops any more, so before long it will cease to be a problem for anybody at all!

**WM oasis** -Can we put Dubliners, Santana, Gotan, Imuvrini, Lojo and Justin Adams under the umbrella of world music?

**Ian A** - If you like, it's your choice. It doesn't bother me. It's NOT A GENRE; it's just a convenient box, or your own shelves, if you don't file your records alphabetically.

**WM oasis** -The term world music has been credited to who coined it in the early 1960s. Why have the same term been chosen in 1987. Did you consider that it already existed, and that it can be confusing in the future?

**Ian A** - Of course it was around before, and I think before Robert Brown too. The aim of the 1987 meeting was only to identify a label that included the most and excluded the least, and then use it for co-operative marketing. We did. It worked.

**WM oasis** -What do think about this definition of world music from Wikipedia, does it answer to your expectations from the meeting 1987. Have you something to add?.

**Ian A** - No, other than they also have the wrong quote, "local music, not from here" and say that means "somebody else's local music". It also assumes it's a "genre". It isn't, it's just a box. And again - THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS WORLD MUSIC!

From London 2014-07-28