

Bernd's Songbook

- the acoustic songs -

My songbook has four parts:

- **lyrics and chords**
- **the notes**
- **demos**
- **MIDI files**
- **the music**

Lyrics and chords (PDF file):

As the title suggests just the lyrics and chords of my 29 acoustical songs.

The notes (PDF file):

The musical notes for each song. As sheet music for pop songs seems to prefer using treble clefs (and laymen like me can thus read them easier) all notes are an octave higher than I sing them. In a future version I intend to also add the words and chords here.

Demos (zip file containing MP3 files):

Stripped down recordings of the songs as described in the PDFs. Originally I intended to only indicate the chord changes, but I found that for several songs the rhythmical strumming I normally do to me seemed essential ("shall I live", "Spartacus", "Gilgamesh"), for others it was the intros ("Cassandra", "Siddhartha") or instrumental breaks. The melodies of (the choruses of) two songs ("no more", "people live, people die") are actually based on guitar riffs, so it would be inappropriate to omit them in the demos.

MIDI files (in a zip file):

I sometimes use MIDI files as guides when recording vocals, so I thought they might be useful for others, too. You will notice that my singing often deviates from the 'ideal' melody – call it groove or poor timing ;-) When re-checking the MIDI tracks against my vocals I tried to do justice to syncopations where they seem to do a song good (while ignoring my quirks and mistakes).

The MIDI data are transposed one octave higher than I sing them. If you use them also note the tempo indications (beats per minute) as documented in the musical notes. Some files, namely "Siddhartha.mid", begin with a lengthy rest – that is the space that I left for an instrumental intro.

The music (zip file containing MP3 files):

Mostly live recordings from my rehearsals or my former YouTube series "Folk Bernd live at home". Then there are older home studio recordings that use additional instrumental tracks (like a 6-string guitar – I play a 12-string on my acoustic songs – or MIDI instruments). Such recordings are tagged as "original versions". They sometimes also have differing lyrics (or contain mistakes!). For example, the first version of "summer night" was much longer than the live version because without the piano and flute interludes the song would have become rather boring.