

1406. Ring Of Fire

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

The Hermes House Band (short: HHB) is a Dutch pop group that has become popular in the German-speaking world through cover versions. The Hermes House Band was founded in 1984 as a purely Dutch cover and party combo. It emerged from the Rotterdamsch Studenten Corps (RSC); the band's name is derived from the Rotterdam student association Sociëteit Hermes. After the founding members finished their studies in 1989, the band was about to break up. As a solution, the band members who finished their studies were replaced by new ones, which is still the case today. In 1994 the label Xplo Music was founded by the then keyboarder and a former bassist to release their version of *I Will Survive*. In order not to lose their roots, another album with self-written songs in Dutch followed in 1997 and the band decided against professionalisation.

After *I Will Survive* was again in the French charts in 1997 and 1998, Xplo Music founded the Hermes House Band International (short: HHB International) in 1999 on the idea of today's manager and former member of the band, Eugene Lont, in order to serve international requests for promotion and concerts without having to let a constantly changing line-up of students travel. This consisted of the former members Judith Ansems, Jop Wijnacker and Robin Maas.

The final breakthrough came in 2001 with *Country Roads* in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Great Britain. After Judith Ansems retired from the band in 2005 due to her third child, she replaced Sally Flissingier. The first Greatest-Hits album followed in summer 2006. In 2009 the band went back to their roots and released the album *Rythm of the Nineties*. In December 2012 the singer Robin Maas left the band at his own request. "The international breakthrough came in 1999 with a rhythmic cover version of Gloria Gaynor's title *I Will Survive* (1995 already No. 1 in the Netherlands). Cover versions of John Denvers *Country Roads*, Doris Days *Que Sera, Sera* (2001) and *Live Is Life* (collaboration with DJ Ötzi) followed. The collaboration with the British pop singer Tony Christie brought a big upswing. *Is This the Way to Amarillo?* In July 2018, their single *I Will Survive* subsequently reached number 1 in the French charts



after France had become football world champion. The original version by Gloria Gaynor also made it to number 2. It is the band's biggest success to date.

Ring of Fire is a 1963 country song written by June Carter and Merle Kilgore. The song was Johnny Cash's greatest success in the country charts and became one of the most popular titles of the genre. Johnny Cash urgently needed a hit in 1962 as he hadn't had a single in the pop charts for almost four years. He was also under contractual pressure as his record contract with CBS Records was limited until the end of 1963. Cash was determined to record *Ring of Fire*, but had trouble recording the song in the studio with the trumpets he wanted. The session at Columbia Recording Studios lasted 3 ½ hours, with Cash's experimental recording going against all country music principles and accompanied by distinctive mariachi trumpets. The single *Ring of Fire / I'd Still Be There* was released on April 19, 1963 and entered the country charts on June 8, 1963, where it reached first place on July 27, 1963 and remained there for seven weeks. Over a million copies of the single were sold, and the digital version of the song was downloaded more than 1.2 million times. The title also took 17th place in the US pop charts in Cash's version. **Curiosities.** In 2004, the rights holders opposed the use of the song to advertise a hemorrhoid ointment. Cash heirs saw this as a denigration of the song because it was about the "transformative power of love".



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MK388

MWP-Nr.1406

Country-Western-Hit 1963 von Johnny Cash
in Party-Version von HERMES HOUSE BAND

Edit.: S. Radic

Party-Beat, T=105

Main 1 Main 2

The musical score is arranged in a system with six staves. From top to bottom, the staves are: Banjo (Bass clef, 4/4 time), Guitar (Bass clef, 4/4 time), STR.-Adv. (Bass clef, 4/4 time), Bass (Bass clef, 4/4 time), DRM-Adv. (Clefless, 4/4 time), and Drums (Clefless, 4/4 time). The score is divided into two main sections: Main 1 (measures 1-4) and Main 2 (measures 5-8). In Main 1, the Banjo and Bass staves are empty. In Main 2, the Banjo part begins with a complex rhythmic pattern. The Guitar and STR.-Adv. parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Bass part has a simple eighth-note line. The DRM-Adv. part has a similar eighth-note line. The Drums part features a constant eighth-note pattern with a 'small crash' cymbal and 'BD' (bass drum) and 'DSD' (drum set) sounds.

Programming instruction

Covering a melody as famous as "Ring Of Fire" is a risk! The group HERMES HOUSE BAND dared to do it and delivered a really good cover version. Since it was a "country" song, the band came up with the idea to embellish the accompanying sound with a banjo sound - and even a little banjo improvisation. Successful! The drums are based on a constantly running disco rhythm with eighths of a second through the "small crash" cymbal, because the HH-open to be used there "doesn't have enough power"! The two instruments in ADVANCED mode are also interesting: In Main1+2 this is the eighth-quarter-looking string sound, which complements the banjo sound, or "soothes" it a bit - and in Main2 in Advanced the same rhythmic bass phrase can be played with the hand CLAP. Main 1 is an interesting kind of the group - mostly around the verse - with half style, consisting only of quarter bass drum and chord eighth lookup to minimize, which also occurs very often with the group in many other titles - and only in the chorus the full party disco starts then completely through!