



## Figures and facts

### 1929

born April 17th in Bremen, Germany

### 1939

first piano lessons

### 1943

Military Music School in Bückeberg, favourite instrument: Bass

### 1945

he is one of the young people being interested in the new sounds of Jazz and Swing, coming from America. For this kind of music, the US-Army Radio AFN in Bremerhaven is the primary information source

### 1946

together with his two brothers, Robert and Werner, he plays in the new founded Radio Bremen Dance Orchestra

### 1948

the Last / Becker-Ensemble is being founded

### 1950

in this and the following 2 years journalists of the German "Jazzpoll" - magazine elect James Last as the best bassman of the year

### 1955

member of the NWDR-Dance Orchestra

### 1956

first arrangements for radio. Arrangeur for German stars as Freddy Quinn, Caterina Valente and Helmut Zacharias

### 1964

record contract with Polydor

### 1965

first LP "Non Stop Dancing"

### 1966

composes "Games That Lovers Play"

### 1967

four LP's at the same time on top of the English charts

### 1968

"Orchestra of the Year" - award by German record traders

### 1969

tour of Canada; MIDEM-Trophy; "Most Favourite Orchestra" - award by the German "Musikpoll"; award as "Arrangeur of the Year"; German record award for his complete recording of the "Dreigroschenoper" (Fono Forum)

**1970**

tours of Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark; the magazine "Musikmarkt" honours him for being the most successful instrumental interpret; most favourite orchestra in the German "Musikpoll"

**1971**

tours of UK, Netherlands, Belgium; "Goldenes Grammophon" - award; "Silbermöwe" - award for being the most favourite artist in the easy-listening genre (Hamburger Abendblatt)

**1974**

Europe-tour; Charity-Concert in Berlin (60.000 listeners); 4 Open-Air concerts in Torremolinos/Spain; "Ehrenlöwe" - award by Radio Luxemburg

**1975**

Europe-tour; tour of East Asia, Australia and New Zealand; "Goldener Notenschlüssel" - award; "Goldene Westfalenhalle" - award; first record production in the USA: "Well Kept Secret"

**1976**

tour of England and Ireland; "Dance into May" in Dortmund; tour of Scandinavia, Germany and Austria; "Star Of The Year" - award by the British magazines Music Week and Billboard

**1977**

tour of Switzerland, England, Ireland and Holland; concert in Danzig; tour of German Democratic Republic; "Robert Stolz Award 1977" - in East Berlin

**1978**

honoured with the "Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande" by Walter Scheel, the President of Western Germany

**1979**

"Goldene Kamera" - award by the magazine "Hör Zu"

**1980**

receives his 150th Golden Record; tour of UK and the countries of the Far East; award by the US-magazine "Cashbox" for "The Seduction" the best instrumental production of the year.

**1981**

great tour of Germany and England

**1982**

single-hit with "Biscaya". tour of Benelux, Scandinavia, South Africa;

**1983**

UK-tour; recording of the "Rose Of Tralee"; recording of the show "Die größten Songs der Beatles"; tour of Germany

**1984**

UK-tour

**1985**

concerts in the Royal Albert Hall in London

**1986**

last of the legendary James Last costume-parties in Hamburg; UK-tour

**1987**

tour of UK, Ireland, Holland and Belgium; concerts in Eastern Germany; TV-show "Kinder unserer Welt" in West-Berlin

**1988**

"ARD Wunschkonzert" - TV-show in Hannover; Great Britain-/Europe-tour

**1989**

Open Air-event for his 60th birthday as a TV-show in Bremen; 5 concerts in the "Palast der Republik", East-Berlin; 2 concerts in the Dresden "Semperoper" with René Kollo; Benelux-tour

**1990**

invitation for a concert in the Royal Albert Hall

**1991**

tour of Ireland, UK, Holland and Belgium; TV-show "Sonntagskonzert"; receives the "Goldene Stimmgabel" by the German TV-station ZDF as a special honour for his long-year international success

**1992**

RTL TV-show "Musikrevue" with Peter Kraus in Zürich; TV-production "Eviva Espana" in Barcelona, Sevilla, Granada/Spain; tours of UK, Holland and Belgium

**1994**

several TV-shows, e.g. "Christmas with James Last" (ZDF) with several artists like Milva, Richard Clayderman and Hans Clarin in the Basilika of Ottobeuren/Allgäu; receives the "Goldene Eins" - award

**1995**

receives the "Echo 1994 Life Award" as a special honour for the life's work of a German artist; tours of UK, Belgium and Holland; TV-production of the "Beach Party" in Key Biscayne/Florida

**1996**

returns to German stages: first tour in Germany after 10 years! Great success!  
production of two new records with Russian melodies and the latest hits

**1997**

Germany-tour (16 concerts)  
his wife Waltraud dies

**1999**

after a great concert in the Royal Albert Hall, London: celebration of James Last's 70th birthday in presence of his family, orchestra, numerous representatives of the Polydor, his management and lots of friends and fans!

Great tour of Europe with approximately 50 concerts in Germany, UK, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Netherlands.

150.000 tickets sold - the most successful tour production of the year! 3 new CDs!  
wedding with his wife Christine in June.

**2000**

his life's work is being honoured; 8th September: receives the very first and new founded award "Platin Stimmgabel"

"The Gentleman of Music takes America!": The James Last-show is being shown by all important TV stations with great success all over the USA.

**2001**

great UK-tour: back in Ireland again after 15 years!

release of 2 new albums:

in spring "Gentleman of Music" - live-CD, video and for the first time as DVD!

...and in autumn "ABBA"

**2002**

Germany-Arena-tour in spring, 26 concerts.

Production of "A world of Music" for PBS, Video and DVD in Zwickau/Germany.

First & sensational tour in China in September!

Great Europe-tour in October / November, 28 concerts