Astrid Hepner: still finding her grooving vibe

As long as she can remember, Astrid Hepner, now Astrid Hepner, was playing the accordion. A native of Cologne, Germany, she had been interested in playing the instrument since she was a child. By the time she was 10 years old, she was already proficient and was soon joined by her older brother, who encouraged her to play. "I was very adventurous and inquisitive, and I loved the sound of the instrument," she says.

When she was 16, Astrid was offered a scholarship to the Banff School of the Arts, a prestigious music school in Canada. This was a turning point in her life, as it allowed her to pursue her passion for music and to connect with other young musicians.

Upon graduation from Banff, Astrid moved to New York City to continue her musical education. She soon became involved with the music scene in the city, playing with various bands and making connections with other musicians. "I was always very open to new experiences and ideas," she recalls.

In the late 1980s, Astrid was approached by a record label executive about recording an album. This was her first professional gig, and it marked the beginning of her career as a musician. "I was very excited about the opportunity," she says. "But at the same time, I was very nervous. I had never recorded before, and I was worried about making mistakes."

Over the years, Astrid has recorded several albums, each one showcasing her unique style and musical abilities. "I love to experiment with different genres and sounds," she says. "I like to push the boundaries of what is possible in music."

In addition to her work as a recording artist, Astrid is also dedicated to teaching and sharing her love of music with others. She has founded a music education program, "An Instrument for Every Child," which provides music instruction to children in underserved communities. "Music has always been a source of comfort and joy for me," she says. "I want to share that joy with others, and to help them develop their own musical abilities."

Astrid's work has earned her recognition and acclaim, both locally and internationally. She has received several awards and honors for her contributions to the music community, and her music has been featured on radio and television programs around the world. "I am very grateful for the support and encouragement I have received," she says. "I know that I have a calling to share my music with others, and I am committed to doing my best to fulfill that calling."