

Áron Szilágyi is the board member of the International Jew's Harp Society, the head organizer of the Hungarian Jew's Harp Festivals and member of the program committee of the International Jew's Harp Congress. He is the director of the Musical Instruments Museum of Leskowsky, the one of a kind institute in Hungary. Áron performs the Jew's harp as solo artist, plays in and manages bands (Airtist, Navrang), he gives workshops worldwide and organizes world-music and environmental festivals, events.

Short story long...

Áron Szilágyi was born in 1977 as the first son of Zoltán Szilágyi, the only one Jew's harp maker in Hungary. He could play the instrument, when he was three but started to take it seriously at the age of 16.

Since 1997 Áron has been an active member of the international JH movement and has been a regular guest of the international festivals. At these festivals he was deeply inspired by the different styles and playing techniques of the other virtuoso players. Especially learnt a lot from the Swiss Anton Bruhin. His creativity and extravaganza with this instrument has given Áron a great push in developing his own style. He also got a deep inspiration by the spiritual JH music of the Yakut Spiridon Shishigin.

Áron Szilágyi performed at the International Jew's Harp Festival with Alex Horsch in Molln, Austria in 1998. Their performance was published on the compilation CD of the festival. The Hungarian national TV channel, MTV also published a program on the festival and made a video footage of Áron and Alex's performance. He was also invited to the 5th North American JH Fest, Oregon, USA 1998. That performance was released on a compilation CD, too. In 1999 he played in Molln again and founded the electronic world music band, Navrang.

In 2000 Áron moved to Ireland. In the summer 2000, Navrang had their first international appearance in Molln again where they earned a big success. In October they made their first CD. In 2001 he has given concerts in Dublin with Kai Band jazz orchestra and had solo performances and workshops in Ireland and London. In the year of 2002 he organized a festival in Hungary where JH players and other "underground" musicians came to play from 10 different countries. Áron was invited to the International JH festival in Norway. Still in this year he started the auralinstruments.com business which is selling traditional hand made woodwind instruments of the Eastern-European region.

In 2004 he was seen on most of the nation widely broadcasted Hungarian TV channels as a JH expert. His band, Navrang got an invitation to the International Donaifest, Ulm, Germany. The festival organizers published a concert CD of Navrang and it was a huge success. A leading Hungarian underground record label published their new CD, Pangea. His solo track, Dervish and the other songs on the CD can be heard more and more on radio stations. In October, 2004 Áron was invited to Tokyo by Leo Tadagawa, the head of the Japanese JH society. He gave four concerts and two workshops in Tokyo and Yugawara. Áron Szilágyi's first solo album, DOROMB::ON, came out in 2005, published by G50 Records.

In this year, he joined the band Flótás, who play Moldvan Chango traditional music. The only Hungarian region, where Jew's harp is traditional. Took part at the Marranzano Festival in Catania, Sicily. 2005 and was the first Jew's harp player at the Izraeli Didjeridoo Festival in 2006 where he had an outstanding success.

He is the organizer of the Hungarian Jew's harp festivals in Kecskemét, Hungary. These lively events represent the Hungarian Jew's harp scene and also pay attention to introduce the internationally acknowledged "top" Jew's harp players to the Hungarian audience. In 2006 Áron was the one of three members of the program committee of the International Jew's Harp Festival in Amsterdam and was also elected as a board member of the International Jew's Harp Society.

Still in 2006 he was assigned as the leading project manager of "20 years later..." animation film making project, supported by Bipolar German-Hungarian cultural funds. In 2007 he established an NGO named Eurokult, that realizes international Jew's harp events.

In spring 2007 he founded a new project called Airtist. With one of the best didjeridoo player in Europe, Markus Meurer and the beatbox champion Tamás Dömötör he makes purely acoustic, ancient trance music. This band has toured all over Europe and played at the biggest festivals for thousands of people. It has become an unexpected big success. Their first album, Wireless, came out in 2008, published by Áron's record label, Aural Records.

Since 2010 he is the director of the only one musical instrument museum in Hungary. Áron was a nominee for the "PrimaDij" which is an important Hungarian cultural prize. Since 2007 he has been organizing the annual Kecskemét Fringe multicultural festival, the Worldmusic Togetherness, the Hungarian Jew's Harp Festival and the Zöldernyő - environmental protection festival and events. In 2010 he is in the program committee of Yakutia's (Russian Federation) most important music festival, the 7th International Khomus Festival.

He has played and given workshops in 35 countries so far, his Jew's harp playing can be heard on eighteen records.