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## **Biography:**

Sandra Hempel was born in Pinneberg, Germany and started playing the guitar at the age of 15 after numerous years of studying the accordeon and classical piano.

After finishing highschool she studied jazzguitar at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg, Conservatory of Amsterdam (NL) and at Queens College / New York City, where she received her Master of Music in 2003.

Sandra has performed with Herb Geller, Danny Gottlieb, Ingrid Jensen, Steve Swallow, Will Vinson, Nils Landgren, Wolfgang Schlüter, Seamus Blake, Rick Margitza, Jazzbaltica Ensemble, the NDR Bigband, Bujazzo (cond. Peter Herbolzheimer) and the New Cool Collective Big Band/NL.

Recently she is playing with Dan Gottshalls "Artful Earfull", Lutz Krajenski Group, Operation Grandslam, Kosmischer Souverän, The Shells and her own project Sandra Hempel 4-tett among others.

In 2001 she won the "Sisters in Jazz" competition of the IAJE (International Association of Jazz Educators). In 2002 she received the Louis Armstrong Award of the ASCAP Foundation.

2007 Jazzförderpreis (Kulturforum Schleswig-Holstein)

2011 Pinneberger Kulturförderpreis