

*We're singing of the times,  
when the sun will always shine  
and armored cars and tanks will fade away.  
People will be one and the fighting will be gone  
and all the little children they can play*

*Tommy Makem*

*Dear Ann, dear Benny, dear Colum, dear Tommy,*

*Thank you for 40 years of one incredible friendship.  
40 years full of music, songs of peace, of sadness and hope.*

*It was on 24 April 1976 on the "Festival der Jugend der SDAJ" in the "Westfalenhalle" in Dortmund.*

*We came there with one dark chamber, where we developed the films (there was no digital cameras and smartphones in this "old times") we made the prints of the artists by the chemical way and saled them to the visitors of the festival.*

*I was going to the stage, where you, the Sands family made the sound check.  
I explained with my bad English our idea to Ann Sands. "Please can you write your autograph to this foliate. We will put them to the prints."*



*This print is 40 years old, made in the mobile laboratory of the "Arbeiterfotografie Saarbrücken" builded up in the Westfalenhalle Dortmund, 24 April 1976.)*

*Ann was very excited and explained my idea to her brothers. It was our first meeting of so much more meetings and especially long evenings and nights in later time: In Saarbrücken, in Wiebelskirchen, in Newry. Key Street, in the Arthur Street, in Rostrevor, in Dublin, in Donegal, in Dresden ("Bärenzwinger"), in Nürnberg (Loni-Übler-Haus), in Taunusstein and many more places of music and German peace movement.*

*Thank you so much for 40 years full of encouraging songs, songs of thinking about our world and alternatives.*

*You seeded the seeds of peace to your visitors, who was not your visitors: after some minutes of the concerts they was always your friends.*

*Please don't become tired to continue your work for peace and i promise I will try to do the same.*

*This world needs peace and music.*

*This world needs you, the Sands family, the voice of peace, my very good friends in nearly my whole live.*

*Ratingen, 22 April 2016*

*Konni Schmidt*