

## **Drunken Sailor – Shanty in its original form**

*Ippinghausen* Of all things, who would have thought that in the most northern part of Hessen old Shanty songs are cultivated? The four musicians of the group “Drunken Sailor” already fell for the old music of the sailors in the early 90s. What’s so special about Shanty music? They are fascinated by the old music of that time. It’s the authentic and traditional version of the song that is important for them. Each song tells a story of its own and therefore has its own traditional rhythm – according to the work that was done singing the song. For “Drunken Sailor” preserving that traditional shanty music is what counts. Everybody is cantor at times. And when they are on stage they feel as if shifted back into the time of the old Windjammer. “Our goal is to keep the almost forgotten music alive and to take our audience with us on the journey. We try to give our songs all the humor and the respect they deserve, always keeping the old sailors in mind” says Helmut Uthof the musical head of the group. Infected by “Shanty-Virus” in Paimpol Manfred Seydel, Helmut Uthof, Siegfried Heinicke and Norbert Schröder made music together for over two decades now. A lot of years were spent with the Shanty choir of Ippinghausen. They discovered the traditional way of Shanty interpretation in 1997 in Paimpol, France at the “Festival du Chant de Marin”. Fascinated by the music of “Forbitters”, “Shanty Jack” and “Stormalong John”, pampered by red wine, crêpes, fish soup and “pommes de terre” they returned. Back on board of the “Vegesack BV2” and later on board of the “Jantje” – those were our first concerts with traditional Shanty music. The idea to sing old Shanty songs in their most traditional way was so to say born in France and is until this day put into action by the “Drunken Sailor” with the goal to keep the traditional meaning of the Shanty songs alive. Participation in international music festivals Performances in Ireland and the Netherlands are by now an integral part of the annual program. Thusly they will be present at this year’s “Rosses Point Shanty festival” from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June in Sligo, Ireland. Their namesake is the probably best known Shanty song: What shall we do with the drunken Sailor. The music is made as it always has been made: on the ships with a cantor and his crew. Only few instruments are needed by the singers for their repertoire of traditional sea-songs: mandolin, guitar, a small accordion and a mouth organ. Not to mention the strong, carrying and rough Shanty-man voice – because one thing is as true today as it was back then: one good shanty-man replaces 10 sailors. For more information go to:

[www.drunken-sailor.de](http://www.drunken-sailor.de)

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