

BOOKING B N

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He was tied to the whipping post with dental floss, he visited the city of tiny lights, was bamboozled by love - and he always sang with his voice on top: We're talking about Robert "Bobby" Martin, who shaped the sound of Frank Zappa's band from 1981 to their farewell tour in 1988 as the lead singer. And alongside and after that, he worked on a long list of productions with big names (Bette Midler, Paul McCartney, Michael McDonald, Prince, Etta James, Patti Labelle, The Moody Blues, and many others).

It took two songs at Zappanale 2022, and the spark was ignited between the 74-year-old American, who neither looks nor sounds his age, and the Swiss tribute band FiDOplaysZAPPA, celebrating their 20th anniversary last year. And actually, in the last beats of "Montana," which Martin intoned as a special guest at the FiDO's gig, it was clear: That couldn't have been it.

And it's not over yet: Just like on the three well-attended tours in 2022/23, Robert Martin - now not as a guest of honor, but as the lead singer of the full-length program - will also climb aboard the Nightliner with the FiDOs in 2024 to show: Frank Zappa's music is not dead, it doesn't even smell funny.

With the fearless blend of snotty rock live show paired with virtuosic Swiss precision craftsmanship, through which the seasoned professionals express their passion for the music of the Great American Composer, the Swiss Tribute Orchestra knows how to captivate any audience. The six musicians celebrate with verve and in harmony obscure tales of modified dogs, stinky feet, sad Eskimos, and all sorts of other curiosities of life. FiDO shamelessly exploits improvisational freedoms, expertly breaks stylistic boundaries, and fully embraces the musical diversity and compositional humor of Zappa's work. With numerous exhilarating live shows throughout Europe and six recordings, the Swiss Tribute Orchestra has certainly earned a place in the Olympus of the worldwide Zappa community over the past two decades: stylish, virtuosic, humorous, and with a unique approach, FiDO continues to intoxicate themselves and their audience with the magnificent work of Frank Zappa even after 20 years.

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www.fidoplayszappa.com
www.youtube.com/c/FiDOplaysZAPPAZAPPAplaysFiDO
www.facebook.com/fidoplayszappa
open.spotify.com/artist/5bNciYDeSk0YGm6g0ErSbA



BIO

The fascination for Frank Zappa's ironic tongue-twister-fiddly-rock fusion struck bassist Pascal Grünenfelder in 1987, when, in his youthful innocence, he was confronted for the first time with the compositional genius and absurd humor of pieces like 'Zomby Woof,' 'Don't Eat the Yellow Snow,' or 'Dinah-Moe Humm.' Overwhelmed by the musically brilliant, disrespectfully anti-authoritarian, and humorously ironic expression of the master of all fusions, the bassist began to explore Zappa's universe with astonished ears.

Inspired by the experimental sound collages of the early Mothers of Invention, the expansive 70s jazz-rock epics, the bombastic 80s big band rock formations around Wackermann, Bozzio, and Colaiuta, and the modern orchestral works of Zappa's Varese-admirer, the decision matured to interpret selected gems from the seemingly endless repertoire of the master himself with a bunch of like-minded individuals.

With mischievous pleasure, Grünenfelder's Rockin-Teenage-Combo invites you to a breathtaking rollercoaster ride through Zappa's absurd cosmos, celebrating multivoiced obscure tales of talking dogs, smelly feet, sad Eskimos, and all sorts of other curiosities of life. The Swiss musicians interpret Zappa's classics in lovingly arranged virtuosic renditions for the present time, not shying away from the unconventional handling of the great composer's material and answering Zappa's rhetorical question 'Does Humor Belong in Music?' with an enthusiastic yes. Improvisational freedoms are shamelessly exploited, stylistic boundaries mercilessly broken, and the musical diversity and compositional humor of Zappa's work fully embraced.

LINE UP

Bobby Martin – Vocals, Keys, Sax
Martin Medimorec – Vibraphone, Marimba, Percussion Oli
Friedli – Piano, Keys
Stef Strittmatter – Guitar & Vocals
Pascal Grünenfelder – Bass & Vocals, Arrangements Remy
Sträuli – Drums & Vocals

DISCOGRAPHIE

- ATLANTIS & ELSEWHERE - Doppel-CD/Vinyl, 2018, Sireena Records
- DIRTY BROWN - Bobby Brown & Dirty Fingers, 7" Vinyl, 2015
- FiDO wird 10 und feiert – Live at Gare du Nord & More, Film auf USB-Stick 2013
- TOO BIG TO FAIL, CD Januar 2011, Czar Of Crickets
- FiDOplaysZAPPA on the Dental Floss, DVD August 2007
- Live @ Sudhaus Basel, CD September 2006, Limited Handmade Red-Sofa Edition
- FiDOplaysZAPPA, CDR2005

REVIEWED

"..and they create some killer Zappa music. This live album is a great example, and a very effective release. They manage to capture the madness and magic of Zappa in a way that both takes liberties and respects his vision."

Music Street Journal, USA

"Atlantis And Elsewhere" ist ein tolles Live-Dokument einer Band mit ungewöhnlichem Musikgeschmack. Eine Band, die es braucht, will man Zappas Musik auch heute live hören. Den Meister gibt es ja nicht mehr und die Mothers sind jetzt die Grandmothers. Da ist genug zu tun für Fido Plays Zappa."

Rocktimes, DE

".. Hier gehen sieben Musiker mit viel Spielfreude und grossem Können zur Sache und wissen ihre Zuhörer zu fesseln."

Eclipsed, DE

"... The result is magnificent.

The choice of compositions is excellent and the arrangements and the performance are stunning, to say the least. "

United Mutations, BE

„Stilsicher, virtuos und scharfkantig wie der Meister selbst: "Fido Plays Zappa" ist sicherlich eine der besten Coverbands, die sich je in das kantig-geniale Werk des 1993 gestorbenen Avantgardisten hineingetraut haben. Mit umwerfender Spielfreude, auserlesenen Songs und einem abgrundtiefen Verständnis für den kompositorischen Humor Zappas hat das Tribute-Orchester aus der Schweiz am Samstag das Kulturhaus Rex in Brand gesetzt.“

From somewhere online, DE.

„... und wenn es um das musikalische Können und die extrem provokanten, frechen Ansagen – die wir bei den Schweizern diesmal sogar in deutscher Sprache genießen dürfen – geht, dann ist das Album ein echtes Erlebnis und macht wahrscheinlich sehr viele Zappa-Fans glücklich. „
musikreviews.de

2003-05 CH-Luzern, Jazzkantine
 CH-Willisau, Jazzfestival
 CH-Sissach, KIK

2006 CH-Basel, Sudhaus

2007 16.05.2007 CH-Basel, Culturium
 17.05.2007 CH-Basel, Culturium
 20.08.2007 CH-Basel, Floss
 11.07.2007 CH-Luzern, Theater la Fourmi
 12.01.2007 CH-Chur, Werkstatt
 01.05.2007 CH-Basel, Barfüsserplatz

2008 04.04.2008 CH-Luzern, Theater La Fourmi
 19.04.2008 CH-Basel, Kino Royal

2009 23.01.2009 CH-Montreux, Prog Nights NED
 25.01.2009 CH-Arlesheim, Forum Würth
 31.01.2009 CH-Basel, Alter Zoll
 07.02.2009 CH-Kollbrunn, Loft
 18.02.2009 CH-Zürich, Theater Stok

2010 22.01.2010 CH-Basel, Kuppel
 04.02.2010 DE-Freiburg, E-Werk
 05.02.2010 CH-Liestal, Palazzo, FiDO Debugged
 06.02.2010 CH-Delemont, Salle Du Soleil
 04.03.2010 CH-Bern, Mahogany Hall
 26.03.2010 CH-Basel, Bscene
 22.05.2010 DE-Konstanz, K9

2011 16.08.2011 CH-Basel, Floss
 20.08.2011 DE-Bad Doberan, Zappanale
 12.11.2011 CH-Köniz, Kulturhof
 24.11.2011 CH-Basel, 8Bar
 26.11.2011 DE-Wetzlar, Franzis
 01.12.2011 CH-Baden, Stanzerei
 11.12.2011 CH-Liestal, Palazzo

2013 12.012013 CH-Basel, Alter Zoll, FiDO Debugged
 18.01.2013 CH-Aarburg, Bärechäller, FiDO Debugged
 16.02.2013 CH-Delémont, CCR, FiDO Debugged
 08.03.2013 CH-Köniz, Kulturhof
 09.03.2013 CH-Zug, Chollerhalle
 14.03.2013 CH-Zürich, Bazillus
 15.03.2013 CH-Biel, St. Gervais
 16.03.2013 CH-Basel, Kuppel, Bscene
 21.03.2013 CH-Basel, Gare Du Nord

2014 19.01.2014 DE-Immenstadt, Rainbow
 20.01.2014 DE-Nordhausen, Cyriaci-Kapelle
 22.04.2014 CH-Wohlen, Chapellehof
 20.04.2014 CH-Basel, Nordstern Bscene
 31.07.20014 CH-Aarburg - Woog Openair
 22.08.2014 CH-Schangnau - Zapperlot Openair
 21.12.2014 DE-Fürth, Kofferfabrik

2015 21.01.2015 DE-Stuttgart, Bix Jazzclub
 22.01.2015 DE-Lörrach, Burghof
 06.02.2015 DE-Plauen, Malzhaus
 07.02.2015 DE-Magdebrug, Alte Feuerwache
 08.02.2015 DE-Berlin, B Flat
 09.02.2015 DE- Kiel, Die Punpe
 10.02.2015 DE-Halle, Objekt 5
 12.02.2015 NO-Tynset, Kulturhuise
 13.02.2015 NO-Arendal, Greger
 14.02.2015 NO-Porsgrunn, Elvspeilet
 15.02.2015 NO-Hamar, Gregers Bar
 17.02.2015 DK-Esbjerg, Tobakken
 18.02.2015 DE-Bad Salzuflen, Bahnhof
 19.02.2015 DE-Weinheim, Cafe Central

20.02.2015 DE-Duisburg, Grammatikoff
 21.02.2015 CH-Basel, 8Bar
 31.05.2015 CH-Basel, Marina
 21.11.2015 AT-Hard, Kammgarn
 01.12.2015 DE-Düsseldorf, Pitcher
 02.12.2015 NL-Hoofddorp, Duycker
 03.12.2015 DE-Hamburg, Indra Musik Club
 04.12.2015 DE-Schwerin, Speicher
 05.12.2015 DE-Sazwedel, Hanseat
 10.12.2015 DE-Arnstadt, Rockjungfer
 11.12.2015 DE-Weinstadt, Armer Konrad
 12.12.2015 DE-Lorsch, Rex Kulturhaus

2016 04.06.2016 DE_Rottweil, Svens

2017 24.02.2017 DE-Arnstadt, Rockjungfer
 25.02.2017 DE-Hildburghausen, Route 66
 26.02.2017 DE-Magdeburg, Alte Feuerwache,
 27.02.2017 DE-Berlin, Musik & Frieden
 28.02.2017 DE-Hamburg, MS Stubnitz
 01.03.2017 DE-Bremen, Meisenfrei
 02.03.2017 DE-Miltenberg, Beavers
 03.03.2017 DE-Köln, Yard Club
 04.03.2017 NL-Uden, De Pul
 10.11.2017 DE- Weinstadt, Armer Konrad
 11.11.2017 DE-Würzburg, Immerhin
 27.11.2017 DE-Freiburg, Wheit Rabbit
 01.12.2017 CH-Basel, Atlantis

2018 13.04.2018 DE-Tübingen, Marie
 14.04.2018 DE-Gebardsheim, Zappa Night
 11.10.2018 DE-Immenstadt, Rainbow
 12.10.2018 DE-Hildburghausen, Route 66
 13.10.2018 DE-Crimmitschau, Theater
 14.10.2018 DE-Magdeburg, Feuerwache
 15.10.2018 DE-Berlin, Quasimodo
 16.10.2018 DE-Bremen, Meisenfrei
 17.10.2018 DE-Köln, Yard Club
 18.10.2018 DE-Rüsselsheim, Das Rind
 19.10.2018 DE-Paderborn, Jazzclub
 20.10.2018 DE-Halle(Saale), Objekt 5

2019 DE-Waffenrod, Woodstock Forever Festival
 DE-Heubach, Zappa Night

2022 29.01.2022 CH-Liestal, Hear And Now
 16.07.2022 DE-Bad Doberan, Zappanale
 11.10.2022 DE-Berlin, Franz Club
 12.10.2022 DE-Rüsselsheim, Das Rind
 13.10.2022 DE-Köln, Yard Club
 14.10.2022 DE-Leipzig, Horns Erben

2023 23.02.2023 DE-Bensheim, Rex
 24.02.2023 DE-Torgau, Kulturbastion
 25.02.2023 DE-Bordesholm, Savoy
 26.02.2023 DE-Bremen, Meisenfrei
 28.02.2023 DE-Ettenheim, Gallagher's Nest
 01.03.2023 DE-Wetzlar, Franzis
 02.03.2023 DE-Dortmund, Piano
 03.03.2023 DE-Halle, Objekt 5
 04.03.2023 DE-Hildburghausen, Route 66
 18.06.2023 DE-Eisfeld, Woodstock Forever Festival
 29.09.2023 CH-Basel, Atlantis
 30.09.2023 DE-Stuttgart, Theaterhaus
 01.10.2023 DE-Übach Palenberg, Rockfabrik
 02.10.2023 DE-Braunschweig, Roter Saal
 03.10.2023 DE-Berlin, Maschinenhaus