

# FiDOPLAYSZAPPA

## ON TOUR WITH ROBERT MARTIN

### **BOOKING/BAND**

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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.

### **FOLLOW**

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## 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, Elvespeilet  
 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