

Mp3 Fritz's Polka Band - Live At The New York State Fair



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Jagermeister-sponsored, Fritz's Polka Band performs an eclectic mix of music that breaks the "polka" stereotype. 14 MP3 Songs POP: Party Pop, COUNTRY: Modern Country Details:

Jagermeister-sponsored, Fritz's Polka Band (FPB) was formed in 1978 by lead accordionist, Fred Scherz Sr., and his eight-year old son, Fritz, for whom the band was named. FPB performs an eclectic mix of musical styles, including modern polka, country, fox-trot, waltz, and more! Fritz's Polka Band is NOT an oompa pa band or the stereotypical "polka" band. In fact, FPB is known for breaking the stereotype regarding "polka" music. FPB is the first polka band to perform at a Woodstock Festival! FPB has made 14 recordings, which have achieved international airplay. Individuals of the band, and the band itself, have received some prestigious honors. As a group, Fritz's Polka Band has performed on stage with "Canada's Polka King," Walter Ostanek (Grammy winner), "America's Polka King," the late Frank Yankovic (Grammy winner), LynnMarie Rink (Grammy nominee), and Glen Burtnik. Individually, Fritz has performed on-stage with Steve Augeri (lead singer of Journey). FPB even appears on "The Manchurian Candidate" DVD, from Paramount Pictures! Additionally, Fritz's Polka Band has opened up shows for Walt Ostanek, the late Frank Yankovic, Jimmy Sturr (Grammy winner), and BeauSoleil (Grammy winner). Fritz's Polka Band has played at: Woodstock '99, the New York State Fair, regional and county fairs, ethnic events, colleges, concerts, social occasions, corporate events, weddings, anniversaries, and benefits. Members: Fred Scherz Sr.---piano accordion, Swiss accordion, vocals Fritz Scherz---piano accordion, button-box accordion, vocals Gabe Vaccaro---bass guitar, guitar, vocals Tom Campbell---guitar, vocals Frank Nelson---guitar, bass guitar, vocals Rick Szczyt---drums, backing vocals Recordings: Album---"Fritz's Polka Band," 1982 Single---'Frankie's Polka' 'Happy Birthday Polka,' 1985 Album---"10 Years of Fritz's Polka Band," 1988 Album---"Give Polka Music A Chance," 1996

Album---"Can't Get Enough of Polka Music," 1997 Album---"For All Our Friends," 1998 Album---"Polka With All Your Might!," 1999 Album---"The Party's Just Begun," 2000 Album---"The Party Continues," 2001 Album---"A Taste of Switzerland," 2003 Single---"Jagermeister presents FRITZ'S POLKA BAND," 2003 Album---"FPB On Tap," 2005 Album---"Live at the New York State Fair," 2006 Album---"It's Christmas Time," 2006 Television Recordings: WVIA Channel 44---Pittston, PA 1998 WYLN Channel 35---Hazleton, PA 1998 Rhythmx Channel 14---Syracuse, NY 2001 WVIA Channel 44---Pittston, PA 2001 WVIA Channel 44---Pittston, PA 2003

Backgrounder: Fritz's Polka Band (FPB) was formed in 1978. Original members were: Fred Scherz Sr., as lead accordionist; Fritz Scherz on second accordion; Gabe Vaccaro on bass guitar; and Al "Rebe" Reber on trumpet. Vocals were done primarily by Rebe. It would be one year before the band would add a drummer. In 1979, Kevin Collins joined the band as the drummer. FPB was now a five-piece band, playing a variety of events ranging from weddings to county fairs. In 1982, due to many requests, FPB recorded their first album: "Fritz's Polka Band". It was a very exciting process, as none of the members had done a recording before. In 1983, Kevin left the band to attend college. After his departure, Doug Warner and Jim Swan shared the drumming duties. In 1984, Charlie Wolfgang joined Fritz's Polka Band as their full-time drummer. In 1985, Fritz's Polka Band released a 45rpm record. Frankie's Polka and Happy Birthday Polka were the songs on this release. Frankie's Polka was recorded in honor of America's Polka King, Frank Yankovic. Happy Birthday Polka was recorded for anyone celebrating a birthday. In 1986, Charlie retired. Once again, Fritz's Polka Band was faced with finding a new drummer. The search did not take long, as Rick Szczyt was given a tryout, and shortly thereafter, joined the band. Rick has been the drummer for Fritz's Polka Band ever since. In August of 1987, Rebe resigned from the band so he could raise his family. Again, Fritz's Polka Band was faced with replacing a member. To fill this position, Fritz's Polka Band chose a guitarist, Tom Campbell. Tom had played in a country/western band for over 30 years, and could also sing. At this time, Fritz and Tom began doing most of the singing. In December of 1987, Fritz began to play the Slovenian Button-Box accordion. This added a new dimension to FPB. In February of 1988, Fritz's Polka Band released their second album: "10 Years of Fritz's Polka Band." Fred wrote many of the songs on this album. In 1989, Fritz went to Gibbon, Minnesota to compete in the National Accordion Contest. This contest featured many fine musicians from all over the United States. Fritz was really proud when he won first place! In 1991, Frank Nelson started playing guitar and singing with Fritz's Polka Band. At times in the past, Tom was unable to perform with

Fritz's Polka Band due to a hectic work schedule, so Frank also joined FPB. This was rather ironic, because Fred had played in a band in the 1950's with Frank's father, Jim. Frank and Tom both still perform with Fritz's Polka Band. In October of 1992, Fritz went to Ohio to appear on a videotape production with Canada's Polka King, Walter Ostanek. Many great musicians are on this video, and Fritz is honored to be part of it. On May 6, 1995, at Fritz's Polka Band's Annual Spring dance, before a sold-out crowd, Fred was presented a plaque from the Polka Fans of Central New York and the surrounding areas for "50 Years of Musical Excellence in Accordion Playing." In September of 1995, an official Fritz's Polka Band Fan Club was formed. On March 22, 1996, the band released their third album entitled: "Give Polka Music A Chance." This album was listed in the Top 10 Recordings of the Central New York Region for 1996 by the Syracuse New Times. Fritz's Polka Band is the only polka band, thus far, to make this exclusive Top 10. On March 5, 1997, Fritz's Polka Band released their fourth album entitled: "Can't Get Enough Of Polka Music." This album has some special guests on it: John Scherz on Swiss accordion, the late Arnold Scherz on chromatic accordion, and Melissa Allen on flute. In the fall of 1997, Fritz's Polka Band was nominated for some awards. Their "Can't Get Enough Of Polka Music" recording was nominated for "Record of the Year" by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, Ohio. This recording was also listed by the Syracuse Newspapers as a Top 10 Central New York Recording. The Syracuse New Times listed this recording in their Top 12 Regional Releases. Also, in the fall of 1997, FPB was nominated by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame for "Band of the Year." In Syracuse, New York, Fritz's Polka Band was nominated for a SAMMY Award: "Best Dance/Cover Band." The band celebrated their 20th anniversary in 1998. On May 29th, FPB released their fifth album entitled: "For All Our Friends." To commemorate their 20th year, a special anniversary dance was held on October 31, 1998. In the fall of 1998, FPB was nominated for many awards by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, including "Band of the Year." Fred and Fritz were nominated for "Musician of the Year." Gabe and Tom were nominated for "Sideman of the Year." Tom was also nominated for "Best Vocal Performance." In early 1999, FPB was nominated in Syracuse, New York for a SAMMY Award: "Best Dance/Cover Band." In April of 1999, a new recording from Fritz's Polka Band entitled: "Polka With All Your Might!" was released. On May 1st, the Mayor of Syracuse, NY, Roy Bernardi presented the band a proclamation for "Fritz's Polka Band Community Recognition Day." In July of 1999, FPB made history when they became the first polka band to perform at a Woodstock Festival! Later that year, FPB was nominated by the

Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame for "Record of the Year." In addition, Fred and Fritz were nominated for "Musician of the Year." Fritz was also nominated for "Button-Box Accordionist of the Year." Frank and Rick received nominations for "Sideman of the Year." In the year 2000, FPB released their seventh full-length recording: "The Party's Just Begun." The band received a record nine nominations by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. FPB was nominated for "Band of the Year" and "Record of the Year." Fred and Fritz were each nominated for "Musician of the Year." In addition, Fritz was nominated for "Button-Box Accordionist of the Year" and for "Best Vocalist." Tom was also nominated for "Best Vocalist" as well as "Sideman of the Year." Also, Gabe received a nomination for "Sideman of the Year." In late 2000, FPB received the "Song of the Year" award from the Mid-York Weekly Newspaper for their song, Mikey J's Polka. The year 2000 also marked the launch of FPB's 1st official web site: fritzspolkaband.com

In 2001, FPB won First Place in the Media Division of the Float Contest in Utica, New York's St. Patrick's Day parade. The band also released their eighth full-length recording: "The Party Continues." Later that year, Frank and Rick were nominated by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame for "Best Musician/Sideman." FPB also placed in the "Top 10 Local Releases for 2001" by the Backstage Live Radio Show, based in Utica, New York. "The Party Continues" also placed in the "Top 10 CNY Releases for 2001" by the Syracuse (NY) Newspapers. WALN radio in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania placed FPB's Red Raven Polka in their "Top 25 Songs of 2001" list. WYMS radio in Milwaukee, Wisconsin selected FPB's Bialczak's Polka for inclusion in their "Best of Polka Parade 2001" list. In 2002, FPB again took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Utica, New York, and won the Media Division of the Float Contest. In December 2002, Fritz's Polka Band became sponsored by Jagermeister. Additional information about this can be found at: jagermusic.com

2003 marked the 25th year that Fritz's Polka Band had been performing. Many different events were held throughout the year to honor this. In April 2003, FPB released their ninth full-length recording: "A Taste of Switzerland." There are tunes on this recording performed using authentic Swiss instrumentation. John Scherz and Bob Zeller are guests on this recording. In September 2003, Gabe Tom were both nominated for the "Sideman of the Year" Award at the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, OH. In October, FPB released "Jagermeister presents FRITZ'S POLKA BAND." This is a five song EP that contains the tune (It's Jager Time) Fritz wrote for their sponsor, Jagermeister, in addition to four other previously released tunes. In November 2003, Oneida County Executive, Joe Griffo did a proclamation naming November 8, 2003 as "A Day To Honor Fritz's Polka Band" throughout

Oneida County, NY. On November 8th, U.S. Congressman Sherwood Boehlert presented FPB with an Official United States Congress Proclamation that honored the band. On December 12, 2003, FPB had the honor of performing as part of "Glen Burtnik's Christmas Xtravaganza" at the B.B. King Blues Club Grill in New York City. 2004 was another busy year for FPB. Throughout the year, FPB performed at many great events. Some of the highlights included: Bill Flynn's Polka Weekend, Adam Barthalt's Polka Weekend, Turning Stone Casino Resort Showroom (SOLD OUT!), New York State Fair, Great Escape Oktoberfest, Hunter Mountain Oktoberfest, Glen Burtnik's "Christmas Xtravaganza," and many others. 2004 also marked the launch of FPB's 2nd official web site: fritzspolkaband.net. On November 27, 2004, FPB founding member/accordionist/vocalist, Fred Scherz Sr., was inducted into the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, as he received the prestigious 2004 Trustee's Honor Roll Award. On December 10, 2004, FPB performed again at Glen Burtnik's "Christmas Xtravaganza," which was held at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ. FPB had a busy 2005, which included the release of another recording, "FPB On Tap." This recording was released on April 5, 2005, and features 14 original tunes, ranging from tunes about partying, to songs about that are sort of silly, to tunes that are quite sentimental. On May 5, 2005, FPB merged their two web sites. By doing this, whether you go to fritzspolkaband.com/ or fritzspolkaband.net/, you'll get the same information that's up-to-date on FPB. On July 16, 2005, a special 75th birthday bash was held for FPB Member, Fred Scherz Sr. Fred received a special honor award from the Ag-Radio Network and proclamations from both the Town of Verona and Oneida County. In addition, he received a letter of recognition from New York State Governor, George Pataki. In addition, he received a U.S. Congressional Proclamation from FPB friend of many years, U.S. Congressman, Sherry Boehlert. Even the White House sent Fred a photo from President George Bush. 2006 saw FPB make history again, as they became the first polka band to perform at The China Club in New York City. In addition, FPB received multiple nominations for the Just Plain Folks Music Organization (JPFMO) Awards Show. And, on November 4, 2006, FPB won the "Best Polka Song" Award from JPFMO for Bialczak's Polka which appeared on FPB's 2001 release, "The Party Continues." Over the years, members of Fritz's Polka Band have performed on stage with these polka legends: the late Frank Yankovic (America's Polka King), and Walter Ostanek (Canada's Polka King). Incidentally, Frank Yankovic won the first ever polka Grammy Award, and Walter has won three. These two musicians have really done a lot to inspire FPB.

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