

dada ante portas the classics

Thommy Lauper: drums - Luc "le Bo" Bachmann: gui/vox - Lukas Schaller: gui/vox - Pee Wirz: vox/piano

Dada Ante Portas is a rock band from Lucerne. Five albums (the last three in the Top Ten and the last one golden); countless radio hits; five long tours playing to packed houses and delighted audiences.

It's good to start off with a few boasts, a few reports about how successful the band is. After all, as everyone knows, a good boast is all about telling people how successful you are, how good things look from the outside. It goes without saying that the band is incredibly grateful for these successes. Nevertheless, they are not what **Dada Ante Portas** is all about. At the heart of the band are two very different things. First off, Pee, Lukas, Luc, and Thommy are four friends that love to make music together and who love music. Secondly, they have an unquenchable thirst for adventure!

"We've been together for over 10 years, and in that time we've had countless adventures," says singer Pee. "All of the tours and recording sessions in Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, or China ... a thirst for adventure is definitely the second reason we've been together for over ten years." **Dada Ante Portas** toured China in autumn 2009. The band travelled from Beijing to Shanghai and Hong Kong and played to euphoric, almost hysterically enthusiastic crowds—a real taste of dadamania. "15 gigs in 21 days, including travel, really wore us out," says Pee. "But at the same time, what an adventure!" As a follow-up to this display of Far Eastern dadamania, the band released its golden album *The Theory of Everything* in China this year.

Back home in Switzerland, **Dada Ante Portas** knows it can rely on the support of a loyal fan base. "Somehow, we touch people's hearts," says Lukas Schaller, "not only here, but also in Germany or China. I think people everywhere really feel that our music comes from the heart. So who knows what is yet to come? We are certainly going to keep on searching for the adventures the world has to offer."

One such an adventure is their new album, *THE CLASSICS*. In addition to recording four brand new songs, **Dada Ante Portas** re-recorded the ten greatest hits of their career. The sound of these ten songs is nothing like the usual **Dada Ante Portas** sound: thanks to violins, trumpets, kettledrums, and a whole host of other classical instruments, *THE CLASSICS* is more than just another acoustic album. With the help of producer Roman Camenzind and arranger Stephan Hodel, the album is almost a classical work in its own right. Above all, it is beautiful. And a bit of beauty does the world good.

But in all honesty, is a classical acoustic album really an adventure? "Most definitely," says drummer Thommy Lauper. "As a band, you reach the point where you have to be careful that you are not musically doing the same old thing over and over again. At the start of this whole process, we consciously stepped back a little and let Roman and Stephan play around with the old hits. In this way, we all came up with surprising ideas. We learned a few things." In other words, the cooperation between the band, the producer, and the arranger went swimmingly. As was the case with the major success *The Theory of Everything* (2008), the band from Lucerne put itself in a completely new situation and produced another completely amazing album. **Dada Ante Portas**, it must be said, is one hard-working band. In 2001, they released their first album, *Playin' Hooky*; in 2008, they had already released their fifth, *The Theory of Everything*. That's five albums in eight years. In total, they've been rocking together for well over ten years. That being the case, it was quite a new challenge—or, to put it another way, quite a big adventure—to opt for an album with classical instruments instead of electric guitars. A few people close to the band advised them not to record an acoustic album, relates guitarist Luc Bachmann. After all, with *The Theory of Everything*, **Dada Ante Portas** had re-established themselves as a thoroughbred rock band. So who can really say what **Dada Ante Portas** stands for? "These are all undoubtedly justifiable questions. But I think we are just four stubborn

mules who do what they want to do when they want to do it.” Pee agrees and, grinning broadly, says: “Who knows. Maybe next year we’ll write an album full of nasty punk hits.”

But before they do, they’re going to keep things classical and diverse for a while. The first single, “I Would Give You My Love” is an up-tempo pop-rock song; “One by One” flirts with country music; “Pocketful of Money” is more than a nod to Motown; and “Hey Father” is an emotional ballad—and those are just the four new songs on the album! Those who are familiar with the music of **Dada Ante Portas** will certainly be very surprised by some of the new versions of the old hits. And the band is willing to bet almost anything that these surprises will be pleasant surprises!

With stringed instruments, wind instruments, and all their hits, the upcoming tour, which starts at the end of March, promises to be a classic in every sense of the word. “We’ve already had a few rehearsals,” says Luc Bachmann. “Sitting beside a cello with an acoustic guitar takes some getting used to, but its incredibly beautiful. Initially, I was the sceptical one in the band. I am happiest hooked up to an amp with a telecaster round my neck. But hey, I think the tour’s going to be brilliant.”

The Classics Unplugged Tour

Friday, 26.3.2010, Nordportal Baden

Thursday, 1.4.2010, Kofmehl Solothurn

Saturday, 3.4.2010, Bierhübeli Bern

Friday, 9.4.2010, Volkshaus Basel

Tuesday, 13.4.2010, Zermatt Unplugged, Zermatt

Thursday, 22.4.2010, Casino Herisau

Friday, 30.4.2010, Kaufleuten Zurich

Thursday, 20.5.2010, KKL Lucerne (with musicians from the 21st Century Orchestra)

www.dada-ante-portas.com

Dada Ante Portas – The Classics



- 1 I Would Give You My Love
- 2 Another Promise
- 3 Dance Beside The Moon
- 4 Bloom
- 5 A Pocketful Of Money
- 6 Mexico
- 7 Hey Father
- 8 Save My Name
- 9 Taking Your Love
- 10 Someone To Love
- 11 Leave For Good
- 12 Hazy Paint
- 13 One By One
- 14 She Cries For Someone Else

Single: “I Would Give You My Love”, Release (digital): 27.11.2009

Album: *The Classics*, Release: 22.1.2010

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