

DIE ZÖLLNER



PRESS KIT



Content

News	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
Facts and Figures	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
Current programs at a glance.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
DIE ZÖLLNER	5
CAFÉ GRÖSSENWAHN.....	6
DIE ZÖLLNER as DUO INFERNAL.....	7
DIE ZÖLLNER as TRIO INFERNAL.....	8
DIE ZÖLLNER 5	9
DIRK ZÖLLNER reads	10
Contact	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.



News

DIE ZÖLLNER celebrate

2022 is gonna be the big anniversary year: For 35 years DIE ZÖLLNER are on stage now, and their lead singer and founder turns 60. Time to look back and forward!

With „Alles auf Anfang“ (Back to Start) DIE ZÖLLNER prepare their 12th band album. And nomen est omen: like in the first days of their relationship, the founding duo Zöllner and Gensicke went to the studio alone to work on ideas.

On stage, the legendary brass section Zöllner Horns and the three-man rhythm section from Dresden complete the band. This act guarantees a musical top-class and staggering live show. And in 2022, the concerts will also deliver a good mix of greatest hits and brandnew songs.



Facts and Figures

The Band DIE ZÖLLNER is founded as a duo by Dirk Zöllner and André Gensicke in November 1987. Their first songs "Viel zu Weit" (Too far) and "Käfer auf dem Blatt" (Beatle on a Leaf), produced by the GDR broadcasting service, immediately hit the national charts. And instantly, the tandem gets the opportunity to play at the renowned "Beat Apartheid" festival at the Berlin-Weissensee cycling tracks on June 16 1988, and headliner is no one less than "The Godfather of Soul" Mr. James Brown! The newcomers, caught up in the joyous momentum, take the unique chance and, following the example of the master, put a full-scale soul band on stage. A daring but ultimately successful debut in front of 70.000 people. With their mixture of funk, soul and eastern european ballads, DIE ZÖLLNER are chosen as **1989** newcomer band of the GDR, an honor that is – due to history – awarded for the last time.

After the Fall of the Wall, DIE ZÖLLNER move their efforts to Cologne and get their first record deal with the Southern German company MUSICOLOR. Before "Café Größenwahn" (Café Megalomania) can be released, VEB AMIGA launches the debut album "Die Zöllner" shortly before German reunion. A curious fact, because both albums use recordings from the radio archives of the GDR: identical tracks in different mixes.

In **1993** DIE ZÖLLNER head home and release their album "Goldene Zeiten" (Golden Times) with the AMIGA successor DEUTSCHE SCHALLPLATTEN, produced by their idol Edo Zanki. The morgue of the formerly state-owned record company is eventually bought up by BMG ARIOLA. The Band goes on to produce the albums "Bumm Bumm" (**1996**) and "Good bye, Cherie" (**1997**) with new material and a high financial effort. This flight of fancy leads to differences between the musicians, a momentous conflict between Dirk and his brother (at once manager) follows, and eventually the band breaks up.

So in the years after **1998**, Dirk Zöllner focuses on different solo projects. Under his name and in collaboration with e.g. the 3HIGHligen, OSTENDE and Zöllners Russenconnection, several albums are released. On his 40th birthday in **2002**, DIE ZÖLLNER come back in a brilliant concert in Berlin-Weissensee with . It's the start for the long-awaited reunion of the singer and his congenial partner André Gensicke. The album "W.i.d.H.?" (Where is the Dog?) is still to be released under the title ZÖLLNER - without "DIE" and without "DIRK", but from now on singer and keyboard player form again the inseparable DUO INFERNALE.

Touring through Israel, "Big Soul" (a program with the SWR BIG BAND) and the Heinrich Heine project CLUB DER TOTEN DICHTER mean inspiring encounters with new innovative musicians. Hence DIE ZÖLLNER come up with a different line-up. In **2007** the album "7Sünden"(Seven Sins) is released. Dirk plays various roles on theatres in Dresden, Munich and Pforzheim. In **2010** the songbook "Texte, Noten, Anekdoten" (Lyrics, Tabs and Stories) is published. From **2011** DIE ZÖLLNER broadcast their own TV show called "Café Größenwahn". Dirk talks to musical guests and performs together with them and the band.

On behalf of the publishing house Eulenspiegel, Dirk writes his autobiography "Die Fernen Inseln des Glücks" (The Far Islands of Happyness), which is published in Spring **2012**. A few months later, DIE ZÖLLNER finally release "Uferlos" (Bayless), an album reinstating their legendary brass section. In **2015** "In Ewigkeit" (Forevermore), another very elaborately



produced album, is released by EDEL. Dirk plays theatre on stage in Halle again, he writes columns for a german newspaper, and in collaboration with his closest musician friends, sets texts by Werner Karma to music. The self-produced ambitious project is called "Dirk & Das Glück" (Lucky Dirk) and is released in spring **2017** by the small Berlin label BUSCHFUNK. With „Affenzahn“ (Breakneck Speed) another book is published by Eulenspiegel.

In **2018** DIE ZÖLLNER celebrate their 30th anniversary and bring out a crowdfunded live album entitled "Zack! Zack! Zessions", containing newly arranged and recorded songs from the band's 30-year history. In **2020** Dirk writes his third book entitled "Herzkasper" (Heart Attack), touring with this program.

And then... everything comes to a halt.

But Dirk makes a virtue of necessity again. He invites musical guests to join his kitchen table and jam together. 20 shows of „Rockdown“ are recorded and broadcasted every Friday at 7 pm on the internet. Fans and friends watch live and donor for their locked down artists.

The year **2022** – Dirk Zöllner is going to celebrate his 60th birthday – shall be a kind of reboot for him. He already plans the 12th band album of DIE ZÖLLNER, titled „Alles auf Anfang“ (Back to Start) and a new book project (a graphic novel this time, co-starring illustrator and graphic artist Jörg Menge) is already in the making, too.



Current programs at a glance

DIE ZÖLLNER

2022 is a big anniversary year: DIE ZÖLLNER perform on stage for now 35 years, and their lead singer Dirk Zöllner turns 60 in June.

With „Alles auf Anfang“ (Back to Start) DIE ZÖLLNER plan their 12th band album. And nomen est omen: like in the first days of their relationship, the founding duo Zöllner and Gensicke went to the studio alone to work on ideas.

On stage, the legendary brass section Zöllner Horns and the three-man rhythm section from Dresden complete the band. This act guarantees a musical top-class and staggering live show. And in 2022, the concerts will also deliver a good mix of greatest hits and brandnew songs.



Fits for theatres, clubs, and open airs. 2 hours show with break. Also bookable for festivals and fairs in summer.

Current line-up:

Dirk Zöllner – vocals, guitar
André Gensicke - keyboards, vocals
Lars Kutschke - guitar
Oliver Klemp - bass
Stephan Salewski - drums
David Skip Reinhart - trumpet, horn
Frank Fritsch - sax
Gerald Meier – trombone



CAFÉ GRÖSSENWAHN



Dirk Zöllner presents his own talk show CAFÉ GRÖSSENWAHN (Café Megalomania). Supported by his big band, the show master welcomes musical guests, using the slogan: Sing with me! From 2011 til 2013 the show was recorded for tv, since 2020 it rolls live on stage.

Guests so far: Sissi Perlinger, Hans-Werner Olm, André Herzberg, Christiane Ufholz, Felix Räuber, Toni Krahl, Angelika Mann, Mike Kilian, Dirk Michaelis, Regine Dobberschütz, Bobo in White Wooden Houses, Valentine, Rolf Stahlhofen, Uschi Brüning, Julia Neigel, Regy Clasen and many many more.



90 minutes show plus encore, including max. 3 musical guests/ guest acts. Fits for theatres and locations with good acoustics and appealing ambience. Bookable now.



DIE ZÖLLNER as **DUO INFERNALE**

The founding fathers Dirk Zöllner and Andre Gensicke proudly present a varying compilation of their greatest hits in their original form: with piano and guitar only. In between the infernal duo tells stories from over 35 years on stage.



2 hours show with a break. Fits for smaller events up to 250 guests.



DIE ZÖLLNER as **TRIO INFERNALE**

A very welcome guest of the dynamic duo Dirk Zöllner and André Gensicke is the Berlin based cello player, composer, arranger and theatre musician Tobias Unterberg. The string artist calls both his home – classic and entertainment. The three of them transform ZÖLLNER's songs in classic ballads and celebrate melancholia.



2 hours show with a break. Fits for churches, small concert halls, theatres (grand piano preferred).



DIE ZÖLLNER 5

2 from Berlin vs. 3 from Dresden. Lead singer Dirk Zöllner and keyboard player André Gensicke meet the Dresden rhythm group, starring guitar player Lars Kutschke, bass player Oliver Klemp and Stephan Salewski playing the drums.

Providing the highest level of musical quality, these five virtuosos improvise and rearrange famous and also unknown Zöllner songs live. Music for ear, heart, and legs, too! Because the results are extremely dancable. A pleasure for real music lovers.



2 hours show with a break. Fits for small concert halls, theatres, and clubs.

DIRK ZÖLLNER reads

...from his latest book "Herzkasper" (Heart Punch).

Dear friend and guitar player André Drechsler (k.f. Jessica and Pankow) attends him on stage. Together they refined the musical reading to a highly entertaining production.



2 hours show with a break. Fits for small theatres, clubs, and libraries.

To request for solo shows or appearances on TV please contact the management. Thank you.



Contact

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diezoellner



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