

## DEAD BROTHERS SWEET STRING ORCHESTRA Newsletter #3

The Dead Brothers' story so far.

Of course the dead brothers are dead. And they have always been. That's how they stay free.

Alain Croubalian first invented the Dead Brothers in his head, after studying death, or more precisely *ars moriendi*, at the University of Geneva with Professor Jean Ziegler. He then staged a singing doctor selling drugs in cafes and telling the story of the blues standing on the bar. A band appeared the first time in 1993 and played only gospel songs, those sung by Elvis, at the Usine in Geneva. Soon two tubas were main feature with founding member Jean-Philippe Geiser playing Bo Diddley beats on his big horn. Dead Alain then started a circus. The Electric Circus with Alain Meyer, where musicians replaced animals and jugglers(they're cheaper) They travelled Europe with 25 different bands including Reverend Beatman, Bob Log III, T-Model Ford, Withman Mc Gowan and Al Comet three years in a row. The first Dead Brothers drummer had a ladybug disguise (Axel from the band Tulip aus Hamburg) and a dark young lady, a black haired gothic guitar player called Barbara, strumming along (from Last Torridas' fame).

More than 20 ex-members have been Dead Brothers over the last 10 years: Fred Schmutz, Jean-Philippe Geiser, Barbara Bagnoud, Olli Franz, Julien Israelian, Zoe Capon, Axel Jansen, Holger Steen, Resli Burri, Jean-Jacques Pedretti, Alain Porchet, Christoph Gantert, Pierre Omer, Delaney Davidson, Yves Massy, Marcel Salesse, Morback, Denis Schuler, Matthias Lincke, Alain Meyer, Christoph Marti and the one and only dj Scratchy as last minute banjo invitee. This Dead Brothers Kapelle has, since then, taken many forms: A mega combo with three tubas, 9 other horns and a dead Brother puppet dancing, an folk guitar symphony orchestra, a primitive banjo and accordion duo that sounded like shit, ten members reproducing Kurt Weill's arrangements of Brechts' 3 Penny Opera at the Basler Opera, three old acoustic Armenians sitting on chairs, a summer piano cabaret band with slide guitar and fiddle. you never know how they're about to pop up.

So long live the dead brothers. Today they are on tour as the Dead Brothers' Sweet String Orchestra, a string band with lush arrangements; choosing a few exquisite venues for their new show(down) "Kreuzfahrt". Dead Alain (guitars, banjos, vox) Matthias Lincke (violin and mandoline), Stefan Baumann (cello) and Patrick Kessler (double bass) are classically trained but also specialists in folkloric music of Switzerland, Austria and Macedonia. Matthias played in the country music stubete with the Appenzeller Spaceschöttl and bluegrass like hell with the Krueger Family, he's renovating swiss folkloric music with Echo and other yodeling figures. All today's deads collaborate with the balkanic supersonics of the Dusa Orchester and the appenzeller Romobil. They are now the Dead Quartet.. Check them out soon in a theatre nearby. And remember : death always arrives when you least expect it.

*Dead Alain , September 2008*

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[www.voodooorhythm.com](http://www.voodooorhythm.com)

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