

The
KAISERKILLERS
File



Definition: Guitar-based rock'n'roll, delivering high voltage musical streams of melodious consciousness at the Kaiser Keller in Hamburg.

Alt: To deliver a killer set at the Kaiser Keller.

So Who Are KaiserKillers Again?

Freshly thawed out from cryogenic suspension, the KaiserKillers are looking to deliver PowerPopPunk with the catchiest hooks this side of industrial strength Velcro!

KaiserKillers were born in the white heat of technological and social change. The fast driving punk soundtrack and its associated assault on the establishment added colour to the melodious, catchy rhythms that drive the KaiserKiller sound.

You too can get entwined in the intricate melodies and world weary storytelling that seep from every bar of the KaiserKillers' phenomenal output.



So Where Did Those Kaiserkillers Boys Come From?

In the early days, Johnny (then known as Rat Saint) was asked by childhood friend Jack if he would like to join a band. This is how the conversation went, “I’ll be the singer”, “No, Cyril’s the singer”. “OK, I’ll play guitar”, “Iggy’s the guitarist”. “Bass?” “I’m the bassist”. “I’ll play Drums, then” was Johnny’s final gambit. “Yay, welcome aboard!” Like many young punk bands of the period, ability and equipment were at a premium, but some useful driving punk anthems emerged from this period.

Later, the Chaos Bros beckoned, with Toby on guitar, brother Tim (then of the Aemotii Crie, later of All About Eve and Sisters of Mercy) guesting on bass and Captain Miff Smiff on percussion. Captain Miff would later leave the band to pursue a career as a full time professional cat burglar. The CBs morphed into the DBs and the Dancing Bees were briefly thrust into the world.

The MC4s were a departure for Johnny, featuring a blend of the funky sound of the period, cut with 70s style rock. Mick Guitar’s output of original material in this period was phenomenal. Mick Sticks the drummer then was taken seriously ill and several guest drummers were utilised during this period, including Almondbury Pete, who stored his drums at the priest’s house, adjacent to the band’s practice room. For all we know, they remain there to this very day covered in a sheen of holy dust and cobwebs! After a period of inactivity, the MC4s morphed into the writing and recording outfit Harold Wilson’s Lawnmower, sometimes with organ and often with several guest contributors.

The bright lights of the capital beckoned and Johnny – now using the moniker Johnny X – joined up with Jimmy (Fintan) McConnell, Dave Smith and Max Bontempi to form Generation X acolytes, Revenge Rockers. During this star-studded period, the RRs were regularly brushing shoulders with the Clash (post Mick), Kosmo Vinyl and Mickey Foote (producer of the 1st Clash album), as well as other luminaries crossing their paths, such as former T Rex Percussionist Mickey Finn, 20 flight Rockers (with ex Gen X drummer Mark Laff) and former Hawkwind guitarist Huw Lloyd-Langton.

Returning to his native North, Johnny teamed up for the first time with Andy deForest, who would become a long time collaborator; initially in the Isolationists. A new direction and a new band took shape in 1988 as Martin’s Dad hit the streets, featuring Johnny, Andy, drummer Syko and ex Luddites’ Mick Stead (brother of fellow Luddite and later of the Beautiful South, Paul Stead) on bass. Martin’s Dad’s standout track was Heavenly in Black, but the once seen – never forgotten – live rendition of the eponymous track ‘Martin’s Dad’, with Syko of vocals, Andy on drums and Johnny on lead guitar will live long in the memory! Martin ‘Syko’ Sykes would later leave music behind to concentrate on his career as a highly sought after international hit man.

A long period of musical inactivity followed, with Johnny mainly concentrating on colouring in with felt pens and Andy in mortal combat with the heinous Tooth God. Krankhaus brought Johnny out of unofficial retirement and later the KaiserKillers would emerge with an onslaught of the driving, powerhouse PowerPopPunk numbers that bring you here today.

STOP PRESS: The ranks of the band have swollen, with the addition of Guitarist Flash Harry and Drummer Barry Bang...

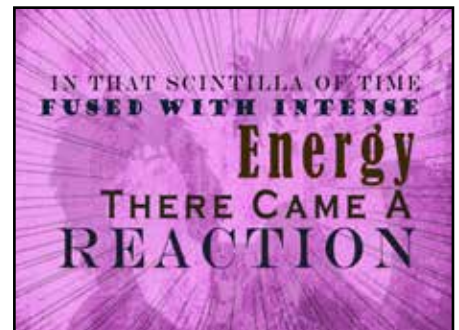
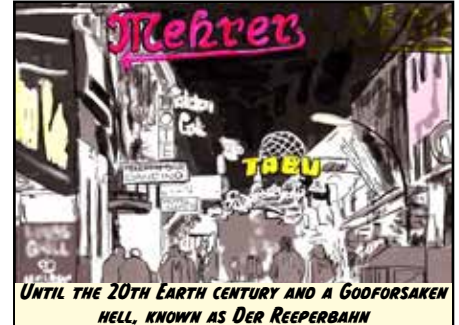
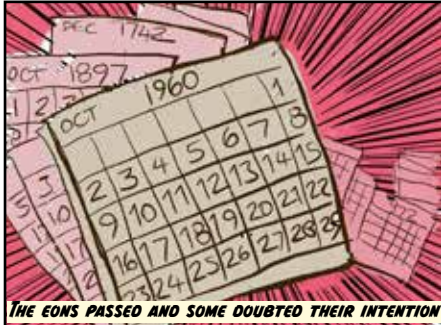
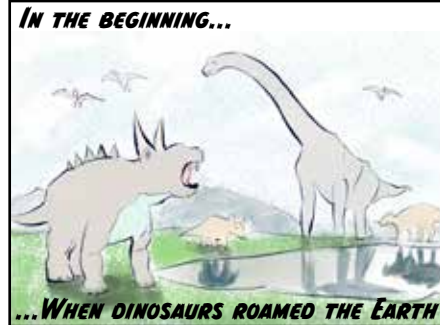
The past is the past and only the future matters. To paraphrase a famous musical outfit you may have heard of: “Where are we going Johnny? To the toppermost of the poppermost!”

Jim Verdana , San Bernadino CA, April 2021

Time Travellers, You Say?

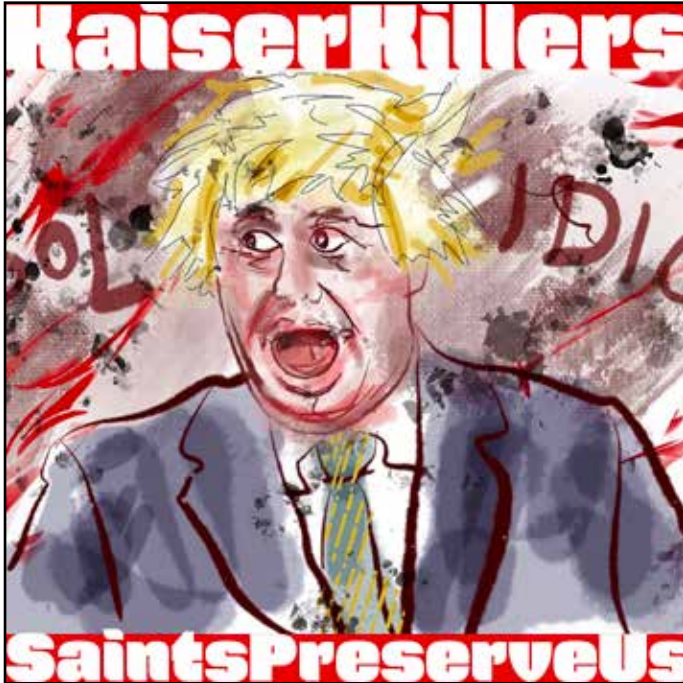
The evolution of KaiserKillers:

Since early lifeforms crawled from the fetid swamps in the early days of the planet's existence, there have been forces beyond all comprehension. This is the story of those time travelling tourists and their rebirth...



So Tell Me About Their Songs?

Main songwriters, Andy and Johnny, have an almost telepathic ability to generate songs together. Most of the songs will bounce around the inside of Johnny's head and skillful manipulation prides them out into the wild, where they are honed and crafted in the final musical output. And if that doesn't work, there's always putting Johnny's head in a vice...



Saints Preserve Us (Released 25 July 2021)

The Kaiserkillers boys have a strong sense of right and wrong and hate unfairness injustice and repression.

On that basis, it's fair to say they're not a fan of the incumbent Prime Minister who disrespects the country on a daily basis with his incessant lying. The KaiserKillers' blistering soundtrack explodes this dereliction and calls him to account.

The Lyrics

It's an immediacy now that's in the glare of television
Crippled by your self-obsession and weight of
indecision
You've reached the top by lying, your constant wheeler
dealing
You've gone and done it now, you've seized the Murdoch
shilling

You wonder how you managed when your life was such
a mess
Wholly as a product of your wanton carelessness
Exacerbated by the worries others have of you
Are they as certain of themselves as they are of you?

Wouldn't you like to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Isn't it right to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Everybody needs to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Wouldn't you like to know?

Disinterested, unconcerned by our impending doom
The irreverent adulterer is eyeing up the room
Mean and faux and gauche, hoping himself cool
Thinking that he's sage and wise, inconsequential fool

Propped up by the barons of the Fleet Street generation
Assisted by the BBC, gaslight the conversation
Leave behind a woeful wake of human devastation
Surely a deserved demise, eternal damnation!

Wouldn't you like to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Isn't it right to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Everybody needs to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Everybody'd like to know...

Entitled! Self-obsessed! Venal! Pocket-lining! Faithless!
Philanderer!
Liar! Liar! Suit's on fire!
Fire, fire and re-hire!

The Emperor views his manner while his clothing tells
the tale
He thinks he's swathed in golden threads, butt naked as
the day
His paymasters pass shopping lists, a nod of crass
approving
How do we know the PM lies? Because his lips are
moving

The house of cards is teetering, foundations of disdain
While donors stuff their pockets full of money in our
name
The day is near, this charlatan is gonna get his fix
Dragged into a swirling cesspit, sinking in the Styx

Wouldn't you like to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Isn't it right to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Everybody needs to know, will the Saints preserve us?
Everybody needs to know

Words & Music Johnstone/Littlewood



The Lyrics

You look at me to see if you can see
What lies behind cool modernity?
Reality should dawn on you and you should ask me why
Your chocolate box cottage morphs to be a tenement in
the sky
Because Love Conquers All except in the real world
(you're in the real world baby)
Love Conquers All except in the real world

Long, lazy days to stroll unfettered on the beach
Those careless days of summer joy lie cruelly past your
reach
Yearning for those careless, non-existent yesterdays
Reality slaps you in the face with dirty, rainy days

Because Love Conquers All except in the real world
(you're in the real world baby)
Love Conquers All except in the real world

Is this a happy ever after for you and them and us?
You were sold a lie hidden in plain sight on a bus
Cool modernity, égalité, fraternité
Replaced by entitled pocket-liners insisting you're now
free

Because Love Conquers All except in the real world
(you're in the real world baby)
Love Conquers All except in the real world

You bought the lie peddled by the gutter press
You need to own your sunlit uplands of success
You really are a carthorse, blinkers shield you from the
truth
If you could only realise you've cooked your golden
goose

Because Love Conquers All except in the real world
(you're in the real world baby)
Love Conquers All except in the real world

Words & Music Johnstone/Littlewood

Love Conquers All (Released 1 Sept 2021)

This is KaiserKillers second single. What's the song about? There are some sleeve notes below, but it's good deal more feelgood than the subject matter would lead you to believe. Johnny's harmonic vocal delivery and Andy's mesmeric guitarwork leave you with an immovable smile on your face. And we had fun making the video too!

The European referendum was a pivotal moment for the UK and the lies that lead to a vote to leave the EU have cast the country into a wilderness that will blight it for decades to come. The main beneficiaries are the 'entitled pocket liners' namechecked in the song, who would have been made more accountable through proposed EU laws on offshore tax havens for tax evasion and money laundering. The top 1% of richest people in the country (staggeringly rich to begin with) can continue to launder their filthy lucre in places that don't ask questions. That's what you voted for folks...

On the upside, this vibrant anthem will catch you unawares and keep you helplessly humming along for days. Enjoy and try not to get too angry.



5000 Miles Away From You (Released 22 Oct 2021)

Imagine the stunning scenery as you breeze across America from coast to coast and stop now and again to play a gig or two! The travelogue account of this epic journey and its accompanying soundtrack is music to our ears. Watch out for exploding Monopoly cars on the way though, they can be quite the hazard...

The Lyrics

Atlantic freshness from the sea and the spray
Thinking over our yesterdays
To the steam that rises out of the street
In the city that they say never sleeps
Pushing on and over the ridge
To the Governor Alfred E Driscoll Bridge
All the things that we meant to say
Before we stop in Pennsylvania PA

From breathing in the jet plane fumes
To yet another motel room
3000 Miles away from you
Sitting in a traffic queue
Don't know what we're gonna do
3000 Miles away from you

The next date falls in Akron Ohio
Guitar licks screaming out and on fire
Smashing out some bluesy piano
To the kids who love us in Indiana
Late at night arriving in Illinois
Just another desolate boy
This is where we need to deliver
Windy City with the wrong way river

From breathing in the jet plane fumes
To yet another motel room
4000 Miles away from you
Sitting in a traffic queue
Don't know what we're gonna do
4000 Miles away from you

Kansas City through to Oklahoma
Amarillo then to Arizona
Trace the punk lifeline in New Mexico
Before we head off to San Bernadino
Last leg takes us down the freeway
Sacramento, San Francisco, LA
Santa Monica the end of the line
Pacific Daylight Time and we're feeling fine

From breathing in the jet plane fumes
To yet another motel room
5000 Miles away from you
Sitting in a traffic queue
Don't know what we're gonna do
5000 Miles away from you

Words & Music Johnstone/Littlewood



Don't Be A Stranger (Than You Already Are) (Released 31 May 2022)

A song about a girl Johnny once knew...

The joke in the band is that most of Kaiserkillers songs seem to be about a girl that Johnny once knew... This one exhibited somewhat erratic and challenging behaviour. Johnny can laugh about it now, but to have a girl hang off your car door as you try to drive down the road is not normal behaviour.

Johnny might look a little severe, but really he's a big softie, who wouldn't hurt a fly, so he was not a little disconcerted by her regular Vesuvius-like eruptions!

She also tried to derail the future musical direction of Kaiserkillers, by selling Johnny's guitar from under him! Happily she failed in that endeavour and Johnny lives to tell the tale in the further adventures of Kaiserkillers and their 3 minute pukka PowerPopPunk! poems.

The Lyrics

You wouldn't want to hurry when you're having a ball
Pride is known to show itself ahead of a fall
Wilting with the weight of all the world on your back
A door hanger baby as a matter of fact
Don't forget a single thing the last to the first
They think that it's a blessing when it's really a curse
Trying hard to wind me up but what do you know?
I'm scared of nothing much except for my own shadow

Don't be a stranger than you already are
You said you liked my music but you sold my guitar
Don't be a stranger than you already are
Nicely alight and heading back to the bar
Don't be a stranger than you already are
The way that you present yourself is frankly bizarre
Don't be a stranger than you already are
You can't invite yourself because the door is ajar

I got an early warning from your Mum and your mates
Awkward and disturbing personality traits
The menace that was hidden barely under the skin
Erupting like Vesuvius, the mood that you're in
It took too long, the penny dropped when I realised
A spitting, scratching psycho with the devil red eyes
The world could see the outcome of the seeds that were sown
With you hanging off the car door as I'm off down the road

Don't be a stranger than you already are
You said you liked my music but you sold my guitar
Don't be a stranger than you already are
Nicely alight and heading back to the bar
Don't be a stranger than you already are
The way that you present yourself is frankly bizarre
Don't be a stranger than you already are
You can't invite yourself because the door is ajar

You didn't notice I slipped quietly through the door
While quickly lining up the key
As I drive down the road with my foot to the floor
You follow horizontally

You wouldn't want to hurry when you're having a ball
Pride is known to show itself ahead of a fall
Wilting with the weight of all the world on your back
A door hanger baby as a matter of fact
Don't forget a single thing the last to the first
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Words & Music Johnstone/Littlewood

Are Kaiserkiller On That Interweb Thing?

In fact, KaiserKillers are all over it like a rash:



www.kaiserkillers.uk



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